

Poll rumours trigger panic selling in City

Survey hints at prospect of hung Parliament

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

Early rumours of an opinion poll published last night by the BBC's *Newsnight* programme triggered a wave of nervous selling in the City yesterday.

They also angered other professional opinion pollsters and irritated the Conservatives.

The FT Index of the top 30 shares, which was hitting new heights earlier this week, rose by initially 13.6 and then collapsed as rumours of the opinion poll predicting a hung Parliament spread through the market. It finished 6.4 down at 1,724.3. The broader FT-SE 100 reflected the market's

fears closing 8.6 lower at 2,219.6 having been more than 20-points higher earlier in the day.

The *Newsnight* poll was rumoured to show sufficient Labour advance to raise the prospects of a hung Parliament. But there was consid-

erable scepticism about its findings among politicians last night, coupled with amazement at the reaction of the City.

Senior Tories believe that the rumours were being deliberately fanned by dealers anxious to drum up business selling stocks on the rumours and buying them back later when the next poll showed a Tory upturn.

They were also pointing out that the *Newsnight* survey is conducted not by a recognized polling organization but by university and polytechnic students hired by *Newsnight*.

There was anger too among the pollsters that the poll results had been leaked to the City when the main national polling organizations maintain tight security over what is, at election time, distinctly market-sensitive information.

Mr Bob Worcester, of MORI, said last night: "It is outrageous. It is quite shocking that security can be so low in those who are responsible for holding the poll that I have been hearing since lunchtime

that I could expect a poll showing a hung parliament to be released on *Newsnight*."

"I am anxious to see the fieldwork dates. This poll is conducted primarily by students and the main polling organizations do not normally employ students."

Of the City reaction, Mr Worcester said: "I feel the City is not so much reacting to the findings of the poll as to the way they think others will react."

Senior Tories were quite amazed at the panic reaction, which they believe has been engineered, to a single poll. They were pointing out last night that only on Monday *The Times* had published a survey by the long-established MORI of 73 Conservative-held marginals which showed the Conservatives on course to return with a virtually unchanged majority of 140.

And while they believe that poll to be somewhat overstating their position at present, particularly in its projection into seats, the Conservatives believe from their private polling that the MORI result is much closer to the truth.

What amazes them about the City reaction is that in 14 major national polls by experienced polling organizations the Conservatives have not once been shown as falling below 41 per cent of the vote.

In fact, the Conservatives were not totally displeased by the publicity being given to the *Newsnight* poll. Their greatest fear at the moment is that their supporters, noting the large Conservative lead in most recent polls, will not turn out and vote.

Owen gambles on a tied election

By Sheila Gann, Political Staff

Dr David Owen made clear yesterday that he is gambling the future of the Alliance on his strong personal conviction that the voters will return a hung Parliament.

Dr Owen, the SDP leader, said that he is banking on a "unique juxtaposition" of the Alliance as a strong third force and disillusionment with the Labour and Conservative parties for the election of a minority government.

Talking to journalists on his campaign bus in Gloucestershire yesterday, he referred to rumours of a poll of marginal constituencies for the BBC *Newsnight* programme that backed his consistent prediction of a hung parliament.

He denied that the prospect of holding the balance of power was make-or-break for the Alliance but he said it was probably a unique opportunity to break the mould of two-party politics.

"I do not think that, if the voters do not grasp this opportunity, we have had it," he said.

But he hinted that the stakes

would change if his forecast is wrong. The Alliance will then have to fight to overtake the Labour Party, which, he admitted, "will take a long time dying". It would still have a large number of MPs if it polled only 18 per cent of the vote.

Aides for the SDP and the Liberals expect the future of the Alliance, predominantly, the question of whether the two parties will merge or split, to dominate the agenda of their conferences later this year if they do not hold the balance of power in the next Parliament.

Dr Owen said: "Only fear drives people away from voting for us. They are led to believe that they have to make a decision between voting for Labour or Conservative. But there is an alternative."

He said that the chances of a hung parliament were much greater than at the last election because in 1983 the Alliance was unproven as the third force, the Conservatives were still basking in the Falklands victory and Labour was in the doldrums.

Denning on Ward trial

The conduct of the trial of Stephen Ward in 1963 before the judge Sir Archie Elphinstone Marshall was beyond reproach, Lord Denning writes today in a letter to *The Times*.

Ward was "fairly and properly prosecuted, tried and convicted" and the judge

showed him much consideration during the trial. Lord Denning is replying to accusations in *An Affair of State* by Phillip Knightley and Caroline Kennedy that the police investigation of the case and the conduct of the trial led to an historic injustice.

Attorney General lodges contempt case appeal

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

The Attorney General lodged an immediate appeal yesterday after a High Court judge barred him from bringing contempt proceedings against three newspapers for publishing extracts from the book by Peter Wright, the former MI5 officer.

In a test ruling Sir Nicolas Browne-Wilkinson said the law of contempt should not be "distorted" to produce a new, judge-made law protecting official secrets.

But Sir Nicolas said that there needed to be new legal sanctions to stop publication of matters which prejudice national security.

judgement of the editors of individual newspapers", he said.

Sir Michael Havers, QC, the Attorney General, lodged an immediate appeal to the Court of Appeal which could be heard this week - whoever wins there, both sides are ready to go on to the House of Lords.

In the meantime he issued a statement reminding the Press that if they published or broadcast material attributed to Mr Wright "pending the final outcome of these proceedings" they remained at risk of contempt of court proceedings if he was ultimately successful.

The Attorney General had sought to bring criminal contempt proceedings against *The Independent*, *The London Evening Standard* and *The London Daily News* for publishing articles referring to the memoirs of Mr Wright.

Their publications effectively thwarted the existing court injunctions barring *The Guardian* and *The Observer* from doing likewise, he said.

But yesterday in his 30-page judgement Sir Nicolas ruled that there was no legal ground for extending the law to allow the Attorney General to bring the proceedings against the newspapers.

An injunction obtained against one newspaper could not bind another, unless it had actively assisted the first in the breaking of that order, he said.

Mr Andreas Whitam-Smith, editor of *The Independent*, said that the case had raised an important principle of

whether, on the basis of a court order obtained against one newspaper, a "generalized system of censorship" could be applied. "I am glad to see it has not proved possible."

Both *The Observer* and *The Guardian* will now seek to have their injunctions lifted.

Mr Roy Hattersley, the Labour Party's deputy leader, said the case was "another example of how the Government has tried to suppress the freedom of information and tried to manage the news."

Mr Norman Tebbit, the Conservative Party chairman, said that it was right that the Attorney General should appeal "because it is a matter of major importance."

Diplomatic crisis over kidnapping remains unsolved



Mr Edward Chaplin with his wife Nicola, son Thomas and daughter Stephanie during happier times in Tehran.

Volcker resigns from Fed

From Bailey Morris, Washington

President Reagan surprised financial markets yesterday by choosing Mr Alan Greenspan, a well-known economist, to succeed Mr Paul Volcker as chairman of the US Federal Reserve Bank.

Mr Reagan said Mr Volcker, a favourite of Wall Street officials, had declined to accept a third, four-year term as chairman of the Fed, which acts as a central bank.

The news stunned Wall Street, which had applauded reports just two days ago that Mr Volcker was likely to be offered a third term. The Dow Jones industrial average plunged 22 points before recovering, the dollar dropped sharply and US government bonds declined.

Mr Volcker said he had decided to step down from the job he has held since 1979 for personal reasons. He had high praise for Mr Greenspan, saying he "applauded" President Reagan's decision. He said he had no firm future plans.

Mr Greenspan, a former chairman of the US Council of Economic Advisers under President Gerald Ford, is a respected economist with strong ties to the Republican Party. He promised to continue the fight against inflation.

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Kenneth Fleet, page 31

US and Moscow united for Iran arms embargo

From Zoriana Pysariwsky, New York

The US and the Soviet Union are forging ahead with plans for an international arms embargo against Iran in what amounts to an unprecedented display of unity and determination by the two superpowers.

What began as a symbolic American gesture to return to the good graces of moderate Arab states in the aftermath of the arms-for-hostages scandal has turned into a campaign that is likely to see the UN Security Council implementing military sanctions for the first time since it approved an arms blockade against South Africa ten years ago.

In recent weeks the Soviet Union's antipathy toward Iran has come to equal the Reagan Administration's rage over the humiliation it suffered at the hands of the Iranian leadership.

According to diplomats involved in UN discussions over ways of ending tensions in the Gulf, both Washington and Moscow have come to the conclusion that Iran has become too clever for its own good and must be put in its place.

Their joint venture at drafting the first formidable Security Council resolution on the Gulf War appears to be gathering the reluctant sup-

port of Britain, France and China, the other permanent members of the council.

China, which is currently Iran's largest arms supplier, has been reluctant to give up a lucrative relationship with Tehran while France, a major

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merchant for Iraq has wanted to keep its options with Iran open and argued that a blockade would be ineffective.

Britain's eagerness to encourage moderate forces within Iran and open up trade routes has been dampened by last week's kidnapping of Mr Edward Chaplin, the British diplomat in Tehran, which set off hostile verbal exchanges between the two countries.

But Britain has also become extremely sensitive to Arab charges of a pro-Iranian tilt.

According to diplomatic sources, while Britain put up opposition to the American initiative in private, when details of the effort were leaked, like France and China, the British Government did not want to be seen blocking the way at an attempt at enforcing peace in the Gulf.

Although the kidnapping

incident is being kept separate from the council deliberations it is bound to cancel any reservations Britain may have had about the plans for an arms ban.

The five are expected to present a draft resolution calling for an immediate ceasefire in the Gulf War followed by the withdrawal of Iranian troops from Iraqi territory.

According to the draft the side that refuses to enter peace talks - an allusion to Iran, which has resisted past peace efforts and boycotted council meetings of the matter - will be subjected to an arms embargo.

The initiative marks the first public Soviet recognition of a US role in the Gulf and an acknowledgment that the interests of the two powers in that part of the world overlap.

Rather than resort to the traditional reflex action of thwarting the US by attempting to obstruct the American campaign to force Iran to the bargaining table, Moscow has joined the venture wholeheartedly.

This means that both superpowers have earned plaudits from Arab Gulf states who hope the show of unity will have the immediate effect of forcing Iran to end its harassment of Kuwaiti shipping.

Iranians give out confused signals

From Robert Fisk, Bahrain

Iranian officials gave out conflicting messages last night over their response to Britain's threat of diplomatic sanctions, refusing to apologize to British officials in Tehran for the violent kidnapping of Mr Edward Chaplin in Bahrain but telling *The Times* in Bahrain that the detention of both Mr Chaplin and an Iranian official in Manchester was "a marginal problem" which should not cause any break in diplomatic relations.

Speaking in Bahrain, the Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and Parliamentary Affairs for the first time linked the detention of the two men and described the kidnapping of Mr Chaplin as "an abduction", adding that the British authorities had now "solved" the problem of Mr Ali Ghassemi, the Iranian consular official arrested in Manchester.

In Tehran, however, Western embassy officials indicated that the crisis was by no means over and that a power struggle appeared to be still underway within the Foreign Ministry over whether or not Mr Chaplin should be put

Mr Timothy Renton, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, yesterday summoned Iran's Charge d'Affaires, Mr Muhammad Akhund-Zadeh Basti, to "reinforce at ministerial level points made by British officials in London and Tehran in recent days" - Page 28

on trial on charges of economic espionage and involvement in drugs - charges which the British interests section in Tehran have denied.

In Bahrain, Mr Modjib Mirmehdi, the Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister, seemed anxious to soften the effects of the crisis but made no effort to separate the detention of Mr Ghassemi - arrested on shoplifting charges - from Mr Chaplin's predicament.

"The authorities in London arrested one of our employees on flimsy, groundless accusations," he said. "Then later, we learned that one of the employees of the British interests section in Tehran was facing problems and had been abducted."

"Afterwards, the Foreign Ministry took some measures to ascertain the situation of the abducted British employee. At the same time, we learned that the problem of our employee in London was solved by the authorities there."

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Armed forces on alert

Tamils massacre Buddhists

From Michael Hamlyn, Colombo

Sri Lanka's rebel Tamil Tigers were yesterday accused of massacring 30 Buddhist priests and novices in the country's Eastern province.

Mr Ranasinghe Premadasa, the Prime Minister, told Parliament that a priest was taking 45 of his followers and four laymen to an ordination ceremony in Kandy by bus from Maha Oya in the Ampara district, when they were stopped by the killers, led into the bush and sprayed with automatic fire.

According to the Prime Minister, 30 Buddhists, including the leading priest, died. Two laymen also died, and 15 priests and a layman were taken to hospital.

The Government's official military spokesman attributed the massacre to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, the largest of the militant groups fighting for a separate Tamil homeland.

Meanwhile, Mr Premadasa announced that President Jayewardene had ordered the armed forces to defend both the territory and the seas of the country. But he gave no clear indication that there

An Indian Red Cross representative in the southern Indian port of Rameshwaram, where the flotilla was being loaded with relief supplies, said last night: "If the Sri Lankan Government does not permit, we will not enter Sri Lankan territory. If they say 'stop', we stop."

would be any armed confrontation today if a flotilla of relief boats arrives from India.

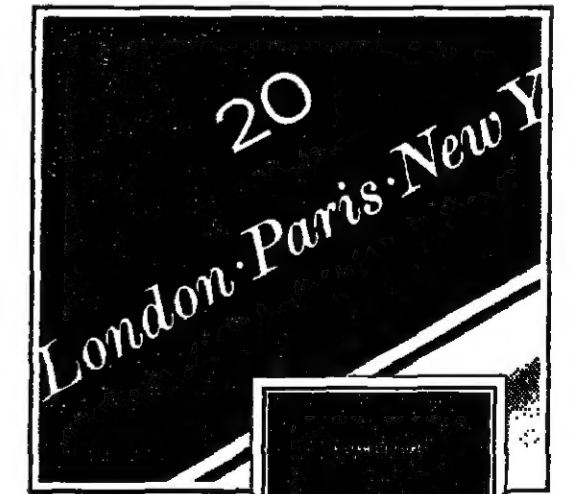
Last night the boats were loaded with wheat, rice, sugar, paraffin and medical supplies in the south Indian port of Rameshwaram.

Sri Lanka, faced with the overwhelmingly superior force of India - evidenced by two Leander class frigates hovering in Indian waters nearby - has little choice but to protest in the loudest terms it can muster. Accordingly, Mr Jayewardene has been calling for support from his friends in both South Asia, and the Western world.

Diplomatic sources say he has been in touch with Mrs Thatcher, President Reagan, President Zia of Pakistan and President Ershad of Bangladesh.

The fragile structure of Sri Lankan society was emphasized by Mr Premadasa in his address to a hurriedly summoned emergency session of Parliament. He warned the Indians that their action could cause a backlash against the Tamils in the south of the country.

The King Size from Dunhill



The fine lettering confirms the fact. London, Paris, New York - or indeed anywhere you travel. Dunhill King Size is renowned for its distinctive quality. Created by master blenders, employing care, patience and infinite skill. Dunhill King Size offers exceptional smoothness.

Blended to your taste

LOW TO MIDDLE TAR As defined by H.M. Government
Warning: SMOKING CAN CAUSE FATAL DISEASES
Health Departments' Chief Medical Officers

IN PART 2 Derby gamble

The racing public are backing Reference Point and his jockey Steve Causton to win around £10 million in today's Derby at Epsom. Page 56
Derby guide... Pages 53, 54

TIMES FOCUS

Italy argues that it has climbed to be the fifth largest industrial power, overtaking Britain, and is to host the economic summit in Venice next week. A Special Report looks at its new renaissance. Pages 16-23

Portfolio Gold

● The £4,000 prize in The Times Portfolio Gold competition yesterday was shared by two readers. Details, page 3.
● Portfolio list, page 37.

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NEWS SUMMARY

Masked gunmen kill RUC officer

An off-duty officer in the Royal Ulster Constabulary was shot dead by two masked terrorists as he walked near his parents' home in Co Donegal in the Irish Republic yesterday.

Two gunmen killed Samuel McClean, aged 40, who had crossed the border from Northern Ireland on a regular visit to his family in Drumkeen near Ballybofey, 10 miles from the border.

The officer was originally from Co Donegal but was stationed at Coalisland in Co Tyrone.

The Guardia launched a manhunt and put up check points on surrounding roads in an effort to trap the killers.

School strikes

A new seven-day round of selective teachers' strikes which will affect some 1,500,000 pupils began yesterday.

The National Union of Teachers, the National Association of Schoolmasters and the Union of Women Teachers have together called on 50,000 of their members to strike for half a day in protest against the Government's removal of their negotiating rights.

The strikes will be concentrated in half of the 104 local education authority areas.

Receiver charged

The Official Receiver in Leeds appeared in court yesterday charged with making false claims for expenses totalling £260.

Mr Robert Douglas, aged 53, of Ash Tree Green, Stockton, Cleveland, has been suspended from duty. He was remanded on bail until June 30 by Leeds magistrates.

The charges relate to claims for lodging allowances and travel expenses between Stockton, Cleveland, and Leeds in 1985 and 1986.

Magna Carta moved

The best preserved original copy of the Magna Carta, signed by King John in 1215, is to be moved to Lincoln Castle when it is returned to this country after being exhibited in the United States.

The document, one of only four surviving original copies, was previously housed in the Wren Library at Lincoln Cathedral. Tourist officials in Lincolnshire said yesterday that the move to the castle should mean that more people can see the document.

Assault admitted

Three youths yesterday admitted assaulting the son of Tom Stoppard, the playwright.

Charges of demanding money with menaces were dropped at the Central Criminal Court.

John Freeman, of Earls Court; Omar Mosbacher, of South Kensington; and William Gerhauser, formerly of Chelsea, all admitted assaulting Barnaby Stoppard, aged 16, at Milestone School, South Kensington, on March 14 last year. They will be sentenced today.

Waiter loses

An industrial tribunal ruled yesterday that Mr Halil Yalgin, a Turkish waiter at Les Ambassadeurs club in Mayfair, had not suffered racial discrimination when he was selected for redundancy.

Mr Yalgin had told the tribunal that he had been a waiter for 27 years.

He claimed that six months after starting work at the club the chief executive, Mr. Robert Mills, had told him that Turks were the "most barbaric, filthy race on earth."

Satellite TV launch

Britain's first satellite-based television service is set to come on the air by Christmas 1989 after yesterday's announcement by British Satellite Broadcasting of its intention to award the contract for its two satellites to the Hughes Aircraft company of the United States.

The company won the contract, worth up to £200 million, from Comsat, a US government satellite agency, and British Aerospace.

The BSB service, whose investors include the Granada group, Pearson, Virgin and Anglia Television, will consist of four channels, three financed by advertising, and a film channel financed by subscription. Viewers will be able to receive broadcasts through antennae about 1 ft across.

ADVERTISEMENT

THE TRUTH ABOUT TRANSYLVANIA

Romanian Democrats Answer Bucharest

In the full-page advertisement in THE TIMES (April 7), paid for through an intermediary by the Romanian Communist Government, it is claimed that: "in the years of socialism, the Romanian state has completely solved the national question". But has it?

After years of pretending comradely relations between two sister socialist republics, the Hungarians went, officially, into attack: first, late last year, at the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe in Vienna; then, they published a 2,000-page, 3-volume "History of Transylvania" under the direct sponsorship of the Budapest Government, full of totally tendentious propositions - egregious among them the statement that there were no Romanians in Transylvania, when, they claim, they conquered it, in 894 A.D.

Bucharest, totally silent for years about the bogus, conjured-up, "genocide-in-Transylvania" campaign, decided to give an answer. One of the socialist countries had broken ranks. Why not another?

This is why the West has now been treated to this extraordinary advertisement. All it says is that the "Ferdinand Toronteu" ("The History of Transylvania") is a "flagrant history under the aegis of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences". Which it is.

But the world ought to know that the entire "genocide" and "ethnocide" campaign by Hungarians could not have succeeded had it not been for the ruthless oppression by the Romanian Government of the entire non-communist population of Romania: Romanians, Hungarians, Germans and Jews, alike.

Nicolae Ceausescu, the Romanian communist government and the "Securitate", are guilty of depriving all ordinary citizens in Romania of their most elementary human rights. The Hungarian elites are guilty of turning this tragic situation into an ethnic issue. The Communist Government of Budapest, through the publication of this "History of Transylvania", implicitly confirm that they were all along, behind the "ethnocide" campaign. How else could it be explained that the top Hungarian historians have been labouring, for years, at producing this work?

Is there anyone - historians or not - who could accept the proposition that all Dacians and Romans were totally removed from north of Danube when the Roman Empire abandoned "Dacia Felix" in 271-274 A.D.?

The world has witnessed, in our time, the dismemberment of several empires. Can anybody name a single example to show that withdrawal of imperial power meant the removal of the entire population of the country? That the Empire, after the withdrawal, left no trace?

Romanian democrats, everywhere, emphatically say: "Plague on both your houses". Our people - Hungarians and Romanians alike - no longer want irredentist nationalism. We reject chauvinism. We want freedom and democracy. And there is the hope that, out of our suffering under communism, we shall, somehow, free ourselves from the ballast of the past and, jointly, work out our salvation in a historic reconciliation.

After all, the Germans and the French have done it.

Ion Ratiu

President

World Union of Free Romanians

54-62 Regent Street, London, W1R 5PJ

Belgians refuse to fit ferry safety lights

By Rodney Cowton
Transport Correspondent

A Belgian cross Channel ferry company which operates in Townsend Thoresen colours is refusing to implement some safety measures which have been adopted by the British company since the Zeebrugge disaster.

Among the first steps taken

by the company after the sinking was the fitting of lights on the bridges of ferries to indicate whether bow and stern doors had been closed, and more recently, the installation of television monitors.

However, Mr Barrett said, Regie Voor Maritiem Transport (RMT), the Belgian state-owned ferry company, was opposed to fitting either the lights or the television monitors because it believed they could introduce a false sense of security and they should not be allowed to replace

reliance on verbal reporting. RMT operates six ferries and two jetties between Dover and Ostend. Its vessels carry the Townsend Thoresen name on their hull and use the company's tickets. "Our view is that they should conform in full to the measures we have taken", Mr Barrett said.

Mr Peter Ford, chairman of Townsend Thoresen, said later that RMT had implemented all the safety measures adopted by the British company except for the bridge lights and the television monitors.

"We regard what they have agreed to do as the minimum acceptable with our name on the side of their ships. We have a co-operative venture with them but clearly we could back out."

There would be a meeting with RMT within days to try to sort the matter out, he said.

Mr Barrett and Mr Ford outlined changes which had been or would be made since Townsend Thoresen was taken over by P&O, and since the disaster.

● Townsend Thoresen's new

"super ferry", the Pride of Dover, slipped out of port without fuss or fanfare yesterday, its maiden voyage overshadowed by the Zeebrugge disaster.

As the 26,433-tonne vessel left Dover for Calais, Captain John Martin told the 1,119 passengers on board: "I have received confirmation from the chief officer that bow and stern doors are fully secured".

Such reassurances will now become a standard part of Townsend Thoresen's pre-departure announcements.

Mother wins legal battle

A mother's long battle to set the official record straight on how her son aged 19 died from a drug overdose, injected into his arm by someone else, led yesterday to a High Court ordering a fresh inquest.

Mrs Pauline Williams, aged 48, was upset when an inquest at Luton, Bedfordshire, in June 1983 by Mr John Harrie concluded that her son, John, died after his lungs swelled up, without mentioning the fatal overdose of the drug injected into his body, causing the swelling.

Mrs Williams, of Whipperley Ring, Luton, won yesterday's order quashing the original inquest and ordering the fresh one after the Attorney-General, Sir Michael Havers, QC, took up her case.

Mr Justice Taylor ordered the new inquest to enable the coroner to take into account that Gary Austin, aged 25, was jailed for 15 months at St Alban's Crown Court in February last year after a jury found him guilty of administering the drug dose which killed Mrs Williams' son in September 1982.

The judge said the coroner would be able to pass on to the registrar of deaths the full cause of Mr Williams' death and correct the official record.

During the hearing, Mr Michael Harris, for the Attorney-General, had told the judge: "What we now know about this tragic death would never have been revealed had it not been for the dedicated and persistent struggle of this mother to bring these facts out and put the public record straight. This is really the last step in a painful process."

Mrs Williams became the first person this century to institute a private prosecution for manslaughter after the Director of Public Prosecutions decided there was insufficient evidence to bring charges against Austin.

Eventually the DPP did take over the case after Magistrates at Luton committed Austin for trial.

Oldest woman turns 114 with glass of sherry

By Ruth Gledhill

The world's oldest living person celebrated her 114th birthday with a small glass of sherry and a slice of cake yesterday.

Mrs Anna Williams, who has lived in an old people's home in Swansea, South Wales, for the last 18 years, was reported to be "in good health and feeling well".

She received her 15th telegram from the Queen as well as congratulations from Mr Norman Fowler, the Secretary of State for Social Services.

But her favourite card came from Britain's oldest man, Mr John Evans, a former miner who is 109 and also lives in Swansea.

Mrs Williams, who has a postal vote for the general election, was born in 1873.

Electricians' leader tells of threats by 'thugs and cowards'

By Tim Jones

Mr Eric Hammond, general secretary of the electricians' union, yesterday condemned the "thugs, cowards and creeps" who threatened the lives of his family.

He went on to defeat the hard left who had been demanding an inquiry into his role during the Wapping dispute.

Mr Hammond said he would never give in to the tactics the "anonymous thugs" had employed.

There were, he said, "the creeps who make obscene phone calls to my wife, the cowards who threatened my life, that of my colleagues and my family, and those arsonists who seek to advance the print workers' cause by threats to our homes and union property".

Mr Hammond, who was speaking at the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunication and Plumbing Union conference, said he was sick and tired of people who went to the rostrum without having a good word to say of their own union but who were prepared to defend the cause of other organizations which attacked the EETPU.

Behind them, he said, and he conceded that they may be unwelcome allies, were the thugs.

He told the small core of hard-left delegates, "do what you will, I will never stop telling the truth about you".

After he spoke, the conference overwhelmingly rejected a motion which sought to condemn him and to establish a committee of enquiry into the union's role "in aiding and abetting the establishment of News International at Wapping and at Kinning Park in Glasgow".

Members of Mr Hammond's union work at both plants which publish four national newspapers, including The Times.

More than 5,000 print workers who went on strike were dismissed by the company and received between them more than £50 million in termination payments.

Mr Hammond said: "The immediate responsibility for the unemployment of former News International employees lies with the bad judgment, with the incompetent leadership of the print unions Sogat and the NGA. It is simply no good to argue they were provoked into strike action."

"Murdoch had made it clear that if they did go on strike, he would continue to print his existing titles at Wapping. If it was a trap, it was abysmally concealed."

"There was an alternative: to use the six months' notice given to renegotiate existing agreements. At worst, that would have meant, at the end of that six months, many still employed at the old printing plants producing existing titles and those redundant receiving

Fleet Street terms of redundancy."

But Mr Hammond said, there was another reason for the hostility of the print unions.

"It would have meant an entirely new newspaper being produced at Wapping by the labour now there and that had to be stopped at whatever cost, hence the dispute."

He added: "The historical responsibility for this mess lies clearly with the other print unions and their hostility to the introduction of new technology."

Mr Sean Geraghty, leader of the union's Fleet Street Press branch, had argued that an inquiry could remove the stigma of strike-breaking which would always be levelled against the unions.

Mr Hammond said the union could have an agreement with News International over representation at Wapping if it was allowed to do so by the TUC.

Mr Hammond also won an overwhelming conference majority in favour of the union's policy of negotiating single union no-strike agreements with employers which were bound by binding arbitration.

Left-wing delegates had claimed the policy badly damaged the credibility of the union and removed from workers their "fundamental right to take strike action".

Election 'paralysing union'

By John Spicer, Employment Affairs Correspondent

The country's biggest Civil Service union is paralysed while it waits for figures for the election of its executive council, its new deputy said yesterday.

Mr John Macreadie, the militant-backed deputy general secretary of the Civil and Public Services Association, (CPSA), had his election confirmed on Monday.

Results of the election of the union's president, two vice-presidents and the executive of 26 would have been announced on the same day, but

were deferred when it was learnt that hundreds of votes had not arrived.

On Monday the union's returning officer handed in a computer read-out of the result, minus certificates from branches covering a potential 2,500 votes.

Last night Mr Macreadie said the union was paralysed while it waited for a new executive.

Mr John Ellis, the general secretary, said the figures would be produced as soon as

the missing votes were counted.

The CPSA and the Society of Civil and Public Servants, which is also involved in industrial action over a pay claim, will announce the result of a ballot on a two-day national strike later this week.

The Government has found itself £235 million a week better off because a strike by Civil Servants at the main VAT computer centre at Southend, in Essex, means retailers are not being repaid after making returns to Customs and Excise.

Pressure on NHS 'hits inner cities'

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

Regionally based specialists in the National Health Service are using resources needed to tackle social deprivation in inner cities, a leading general practitioner said yesterday.

Professor Brian Jarman, head of the department of primary care at St Mary's Hospital Medical School, says that health authorities such as Tower Hamlets, City and Hackney and Central Manchester, which all suffer from high social deprivation, are unable to provide adequate services for local residents. Services are instead channelled into expensive "hidden" regional specialists which are used by patients from other districts and from abroad.

Professor Jarman, chairman of an independent inquiry into the health of people in Tower Hamlets, said that half of the patients treated at Tower Hamlets came from outside the district and that services for local residents were consequently being squeezed. Although the region earmarked some money for recognized regional specialists, many of these treatments came out of the district budget.

Although Tower Hamlets has one of the worst records in the country in terms of premature death, perinatal mortality and other indicators of social deprivation, the district's budget was being cut by 9.6 per cent over the next seven years.

Tower Hamlets Inquiry Report. Copies from Tower Hamlets community health council, 23 New Road, London E1.

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Tower Hamlets Inquiry Report. Copies from Tower Hamlets community health council, 23 New Road, London E1.

Costs crisis for Opren claimants

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Hundreds of people who claim to have suffered side effects from the anti-arthritis drug Opren are being driven from seeking a remedy in the courts because of the risk of huge legal bills, the Court of Appeal was told yesterday.

Mr Louis Blom Cooper QC, for the claimants, told the judges how more than 500 of them had already withdrawn because of a High Court ruling that all claimants, both those on legal aid and those funding themselves, must share the costs of the damages action.

The effect of the ruling, which the claimants are challenging, is that they would each face a 0.1 per cent share of the legal bill for the test case if they lost.

Costs already exceeded £1 million and a total £3 million was a "gross underestimate,"

Mr Blom Cooper said.

The judges' decision to decide how costs should be allocated at this early stage was "driving the unassisted plaintiff away from his remedy in the courts," Mr Blom Cooper said.

They are suing the drug's American manufacturers, Eli Lilly, its British subsidiary Dista Products, the Government's Committee on the Safety of Medicines and the Department of Health, who are defending the claims.

Sir John Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, sitting with Lord Justice Lloyd and Lord Justice Balcombe, commented that many might think the risk of a costs bill in excess of £3,000 was not worth it, "but that's a fact of life."

Judgement was reserved until today.

BBC governors to meet on shake-up

By Michael Horsnell

The BBC board of governors will meet tomorrow to discuss a reshuffle of its top executives in the wake of the power struggle which came after the appointment of Mr Michael Checkland as Director General last year.

Top of the agenda will be the resignation of Mr Brian Wenham, managing director of BBC Radio for less than a year, whose expectations of succeeding the outgoing director general, Mr Alasdair Milne, were frustrated.

With the enforced departure of Mr Milne in January, there has been increased pressure on two other senior figures in the BBC "old guard" - Mr Alan

Protheroe, assistant director general, and Mr Bill Cotton, managing director of BBC Television - to leave.

But BBC insiders said yesterday that speculation the two are about to resign is premature, though rumours surrounding them will be discussed by the board.

Although the responsibilities of Mr Protheroe, who bore the brunt of criticism over the corporation's handling of the *Real Lives* and *Secret Society* controversies, have been eroded under the new regime, it is understood he has been asked by Mr Checkland to deputize for him while he is on holiday in August.

Mr Protheroe, aged 53, a

BBC man for 30 years who has served in his present post since 1982, is disturbed by the power struggle but devoted to the corporation and distressed by rumours about his future.

He will fill in for Mr Checkland in spite of the recent arrival of Mr John Birt from London Weekend as the new deputy director general. He is said to be still finding his feet.

The future of Mr Bill Cotton, aged 59, is even more uncertain. He had negotiated an extension of his contract as managing director, a post which he has held for three years, to take him beyond the normal BBC retiring age of 60. Son of the wartime band-

leader, Mr Cotton is also said to be deeply disturbed by the power struggle.

Waiting in the wings is Mr Michael Grade, aged 44, the director of programmes, who would effectively become number three in the hierarchy with the departure of Mr Protheroe and Mr Cotton. He is regarded as the "golden boy" of the corporation during its successful ratings battle with ITV.

Mr Grade will continue to exercise overall control of the programming of BBC 1 and BBC 2, a control made all the more absolute with the impending departure of Mr Graeme MacDonald, Controller of BBC 2, whose contract is approaching its end.



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Mother wins legal battle

Decoy WPC caught multiple rapist as he sought a victim

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

A woman police constable acted as a decoy to trap a multiple rapist responsible for a string of attacks in north London.

Woman Police Constable Janet Rodgers walked along dark alleys and side roads hoping to lure the attacker into the open.

As hidden colleagues waited for her radio signal, she deliberately put herself at risk and was pounced on.

Instead of screaming, which might have frightened the attacker away, she tapped on a concealed radio microphone and her colleagues came to her rescue.

The actions of WPC Rodgers were described at the Central Criminal Court yesterday when a teenager, believed to be the youngest mass rapist to be convicted in Britain, was given 13 years' youth custody.

Shaun Francis, of Wood Green, north London, who was aged 16 at the time of the attacks, admitted eight rapes, one attempted rape and two indecent assaults.

He was also convicted of two thefts, a robbery and a burglary.

WPC Rodgers said: "I am pleased he got 13 years but with remission he will be out by the time he is 25 or 26".

During a year of attacks Francis, who was said by defence counsel to be immature and felt inferior, would often strike in alleyways, seizing his victims from behind, threatening them and then submitting them to sexual abuse and rape. The victims included two girls aged 16 and one woman who was raped in her bed during a burglary.

Two other youths, aged 17 and 18, pleaded guilty to charges including indecent assault and burglary.

Yesterday, Judge Lymbery told Francis, now aged 18, that there had been "degradation and fear which must have been appalling for these women. It was a horrible experience whether in bed or when lawfully and peacefully passing on the street".

In sentencing, he took into account that Francis had pleaded guilty and not used weapons or serious violence.

During mitigation, the court was told that Francis had two previous convictions for in-

decent assault when he was 13 and 15, a few months before he began the rapes in 1985. Mr Aggrey Burke, a senior lecturer in psychiatry at St George's Hospital, London, said Francis had been a mal-adjusted youngster who needed help and was asked for it.

Mr Roy Amiot, for the prosecution, said the first attack took place in May 1985 and it was not long before things got to such a pace that the police mounted a special operation. Attacks were running at two a month at times.

The judge ordered that pleas of not guilty to three charges of attempted rape, including the attack on WPC Rodgers and another sexual offence, should remain on file.

Dealing with the other two defendants he sentenced David Liscott, aged 18, an apprentice painter of Hornsey, north London, to 16 months' youth custody for two charges of indecent assault.

Sean Simpson, aged 17, a trainee painter, of north London, pleaded guilty to theft and burglary and was bailed to return for details of community service.



WPC Janet Rodgers, who was commended by the judge after she acted as bait for the rapist

Firms are ignoring road toll

By Daniel Ward
Motor Industry Correspondent

Companies pay little or no attention to road safety, despite accidents accounting for three times the 10 million working days lost through industrial accidents, according to road safety experts.

Cutting the number of road accidents in the course of industrial and business activities would, the RAC say, "not only help prevent suffering and grief but would also reduce commercial costs which must all be passed on to consumers unless compensating savings can be made in other ways".

Employers and unions will take part in a conference in London today aimed at encouraging industry to help reduce the toll of road accidents. Company-owned trucks and cars account for up to 60 per cent of those on British roads.

Championing the case for better driver education will be the oil company Conoco, whose fleet of 240 oil tankers and 180 company cars is one of the safest in Britain. All potential tanker drivers have to undergo an additional driving test before joining Conoco and company car drivers have to score high marks in an advanced driving test.

Drivers are encouraged to take a refresher course every three years to maintain a high standard. Conoco also investigates every accident involving company vehicles, assessing driver responsibility.

Portfolio Gold - University will gain new Bibles

Two winners share the Portfolio Gold competition prize of £4,000. One plans to spend part of the windfall on buying Gideon Bibles for Nottingham University and the other on house improvements.

Mr Norman Harding, aged 68, a retired district manager for a supermarket group, of Katherine Drive, Toton, Nottingham, said: "I hope and pray to use some of the money to place Bibles in Nottingham University".

He plans to spend the rest of the money on attending a Gideon convention in New Orleans next month.

Mr Harding said he had been a regular reader of *The Times* and had played the competition since it started.

Mr Ian Bowden, aged 35, a company director, of Rockshaw Stables, Spring Bottom Lane, Blitchingley, Surrey, and his wife Nicola, have recently moved into their home and intend to spend the money on central heating.

Readers can obtain a Portfolio Gold card by sending a stamped addressed envelope to:

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Mr Harding, who hopes to attend a Gideon convention.

Hay fever sets exam problems

Hay fever may influence sufferers to drop out of academic studies and also cause 2,000 accidents a year, a report stated yesterday.

Dr Gordon Rae, a senior lecturer at Ulster University, said that out of a sample of 631 undergraduates 12 per cent suffered from hay fever and about half of these considered it adversely affected their examination results in O and A levels, taken when the pollen count is at its highest.

Yet the A level grades of hay fever sufferers was slightly higher than other students.

In explanation, Dr Rae said that could have been caused by a very high pollen count in 1984, when many of the students sampled were taking O levels, followed by a very low pollen count in 1986 when they were sitting A levels.

Dr Rae's findings are supported by Dr John Guy, the author of a report on the effect of hay fever on examination results which was published three years ago.

But while students suffering from the allergy could under-achieve by one or two grades both doctors agreed that many sufferers coped by preparing for the examinations well in advance of the pollen season.

Dr Rae also found that four students during the five previous years, either because of sneezing and running eyes or growiness from some types of antihistamines.

Maternity care

Midwives call for home birth service

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

All health authorities should set up a home confinement service so that women at low risk can choose to have their babies at home, the Royal College of Midwives said yesterday.

The college also called for pregnant women infected with the Aids virus to be segregated in separate rooms in hospital maternity departments and cared for with the same procedures as mothers with hepatitis B.

In its manifesto for maternity services for the next decade, the college said that although 99 per cent of women had their children in hospital, recent studies had shown that might not always be the best policy.

"The college now recognizes

Papworth Hospital aims to achieve one heart transplant every four days by 1990, according to Dr John Wallwork, the consultant surgeon who carried out the world's first combined heart, lung and liver transplant at the hospital last December.

Dr Wallwork disclosed the plans at the launch of an appeal to Britain's squash players to raise £1 million for Papworth.

The New Nigel Olney Trust, named after Britain's longest surviving heart transplant patient, a squash player, will organize fund-raising events among the more than one million people who play squash in Britain.

there is some doubt about the assumption that the safest place for delivery for all women is invariably a consultant unit," the document said.

It said home confinements should not take place on an ad hoc basis but should be chosen on a policy agreed by the relevant professionals.

Miss Ruth Ashton, the college's general secretary,

said the college also questioned the cost-effectiveness and safety of high-technology techniques such as ultrasound.

That technique was now widely used.

"Services should be geared towards women and not professionals. A basic standard of health care should be provided to meet the needs of all mother and babies", she said.

Women should be able to refer themselves directly to midwives at specified clinics and should be able to choose a midwife, GP or consultant or a combination to provide their basic care.

Towards a healthy nation - a policy for maternity services. (The Royal College of Midwives, 15 Mansfield Street, London W1, E2).

The responsible midwife

Washington conference

World-wide Aids warning

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

The world faces a huge increase in Aids with up to three million new cases in the next four years, an international conference in Washington was told yesterday.

Dr Jonathan Mann, director of the World Health Organization special programme on Aids, said that between five and 10 million people are believed infected, creating a world-wide emergency that required "urgent and unprecedented" global action.

"Aids cannot be stopped in any one country until it is stopped in all countries," he said.

Every continent was affected and further spread of the disease was inevitable, he said. Cases had been reported by 113 countries. "Fear and ignorance about Aids is causing

ing as many tragedies as the disease itself", he added.

A world summit of health ministers to discuss the crisis is to be held in London next January, he said.

Almost 21,000 people in the United States have died from the disease but by 1991 the death toll is expected to reach 179,000. Dr James Curran told the meeting yesterday.

Dr Curran, of the Centre for Infectious Diseases in Atlanta, said the biggest increase in Aids cases in America last year were among heterosexual men and women.

Among 6,000 such cases in men and 2,000 in women the majority - 68 and 51 per cent - were directly associated with intravenous drug abuse.

● A campaign for government

compensation for haemophiliacs and their families who are affected by Aids is being launched after evidence of the risks to them of the disease emerged yesterday.

A study showed that 83 per cent of a group of haemophiliacs in England who were infected with the Aids virus through contaminated blood products have developed symptoms of the disease and seven of them have died.

The campaign will be led by the Haemophilia Society. Dr Jones and his colleagues believe the Government has a responsibility because haemophiliacs became infected with the Aids virus through contaminated prepacked blood-clotting products several years ago.

Soldier 'dreamt of death'

By David Cross

A teenage soldier, who was found hanged in his barracks last January, had a dream about taking his life just before he died, an inquest was told yesterday.

Private Jason Mulhall and former Private David Pearce, who shared the same room at the Junior Infantry Battalion at Shorncliffe Barracks, Kent, said that about two days before Private Jeffrey Singh, aged 17, died he had dreamt about hanging himself.

"He was laughing and joking about it the next morning", Private Mulhall told an inquest in Hythe.

Private Mulhall said that Private Singh, who had missed some of his training and had been suffering from influenza and bad nose bleeds at the time, was worried because he had already lost a term's training from his course when he was sent to hospital in Woolwich with a knee injury at the end of last year.

Another of his colleagues, Private Lakhvinder Singh Dhalwal, said that Private Singh had asked him last November how to make a noose.

During yesterday's hearing, other colleagues of Private Singh, both black and white, denied allegations of racial abuse or brutality against recruits by those in command at Shorncliffe.

The inquest continues today.

Concern over rise in charity frauds

By Mark Ellis

Charity-related fraud and abuse is increasing in Britain and is becoming steadily more difficult to control, according to the financial watchdog which certifies the accounts of government departments and public bodies.

The report, published yesterday by the National Audit Office (NAO) for presentation to Parliament says charities are big business, collecting and spending more than £10 billion a year, holding assets of about £2.5 billion, and enjoying tax and other privileges worth a similar amount. Moreover the NAO adds that the Charity Commission's register of 154,135 charities is unreliable and out-dated.

Public expectations that registration with the Commission ensures effective and

efficient use of donations are ill-founded, says the NAO, and more than two thirds of charity accounts are not professionally audited.

The Charity Commission is increasing its staff of eight to 13 to examine accounts. Recent investigations by the charity fraud unit within the Metropolitan Police into three major cases of abuse were frustrated because of the lack of accounting records.

The tax yield from 26 inland revenue investigations involving charities in 1985-6 was more than £4 million. A further 170 cases are being investigated.

Monitoring and Control of Charities in England and Wales, report by the Comptroller and Auditor General (Stationery Office, £3.10).

Journalist had drugs worth £70

A lawyer representing a journalist charged with possessing cocaine yesterday asked for the case to be held in private to prevent details of his client's job being reported.

Horseferry Road Magistrates' Court, central London, refused the plea made on behalf of Mrs Annika Savill, a sub-editor on *The Independent* newspaper.

Savill, aged 29, of Novello Road, Fulham, south-west London, was given a conditional discharge for three years after admitting the possession of 912 mg of cocaine, worth about £70, in February.

She said after the case that the request for it to be held in private was done without her knowledge.

Miller ridicules complacent theatre

By Ruth Gledhill

Dr Jonathan Miller, the leading drama director, launched a scathing attack on contemporary English theatre yesterday as he disclosed details of his first season at the Old Vic in London.

Dr Miller, who is returning to mainstream theatre after spending nearly 10 years directing operas and television plays and writing books, said: "There is a stale Winzette pyjama smell about the English theatre. A whole miasma hangs over it. 'Something is missing. Eng-

lish theatre has been so heavily bureaucratized. It is like a giant Gatwick where heavy Boeings take off every night for the entertainment of American tourists. There is a bumping Georgian, Garrick-club complacency about it.

"It is the function of a theatre like the Old Vic to be seen as a place where you can escape from the ruthless demands of the principally commercial theatre."

He said it was ironic that the Old Vic should be "lightning up" while whole tracts of the

West End theatre-land were in darkness, and blamed "Attila the tourist" for a decline in standards. "Tourists are the huns of modern Europe," he said.

Dr Miller, who announced a £2.5 million schedule of seven plays for the Old Vic in 1988, said the programme of serious and classical plays had been made possible only by the "pragmatic philanthropy" of Mr Ed Mirvish, the Canadian millionaire who bought and restored the theatre.

Five of the productions,

including the first, Racine's *Andromache*, which is due to open in January, will be directed by Dr Miller.

Guest directors will include Mr Richard Jones, described by Dr Miller as a "dangerously competitive rival", who will direct Ostrovsky's *Too Clever by Half*.

The other productions will be Lenz's *The Tutor*; N F Simpson's *One Way Pendulum*; Bussy D'Ambois, a Jacobean tragedy; Shakespeare's *The Tempest*; and *Candide*, a musical.

Injunction is thrown on to ship

By A Staff Reporter

A container with a High Court injunction inside was thrown on to the deck of a Greenpeace ship in the Irish Sea in pitch darkness yesterday morning.

The injunction was served by British Nuclear Fuels against the crew of the Dutch-registered ship *Sirius*, who had been threatening to block the discharge pipes from the Sellafield reprocessing plant in Cumbria.

A BNF representative went alongside the *Sirius* in an inflatable dinghy and used a loud-hailer to attract attention before throwing the container on board.

It was thought that Greenpeace planned to use divers wearing special protective suits and masks to block the pipeline in protest at what it claims are dangerously high levels of radioactive discharges.

A Greenpeace representative in Dublin yesterday did not exclude the possibility of breaking the injunction: an alternative peaceful form of protest would be for the *Sirius* to remain off Sellafield, flying protest banners and collecting samples of water and seaweed for analysis.

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A ramshackle convoy in search of a solstice

By Andrew Morgan

At 38, Brian Hunt is a sort of senior statesman among the travelling band of hippies who are hunting for a suitable solstice festival to celebrate this year.

"I've been on the road for 15 years and it's getting harder all the time", he said, bemoaning the new rules which limit the Stonehenge binge to 500 and forbid more than 12 vehicles to group together.

Yesterday Mr Hunt peered through the rain-streaked windows of his ancient bus, keeping an eye on the Avon police van which was keeping

an eye on him and the rest of a ramshackle convoy resting on Ingleside Common, north of Chipping Sodbury.

It is the largest convoy of the season so far (35 vehicles and 10 caravans) and technically a breach of the new Public Order Act. But this year the police are taking a "softly softly" approach - no road blocks and no punch ups so far.

Mr Hunt used to be a carpenter in Cambridge and his previous two wives, two sons and two step-sons still live there. After succumbing to the urge to travel he bought

his £600 bus with money from scrap dealing and now lives with two mongrels and Merle, aged 21, a former veterinary nurse with nine O levels who comes from Maidstone in Kent.

The bus in which they live has a double bed, two armchairs, a wood-burning stove, cooker and sink. Irish music tinkles through speakers alongside the sets of car-rings they sell at festivals for 40 pence each. Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament stickers sit next to posters of doomed seals.

Once a fortnight the couple

collect £30 each from whatever social security office is nearest. "I have no desire to work", Mr Hunt says. "I think jobs should be given to the unemployed who want to graft. Anyway people don't employ people without a fixed address."

Teenage hippies, looking like urban punks, come to his bus for advice. Yesterday they were considering a warning from North Avon District Council that the convoy was breaking local by-laws. The gaggle of travellers, with their barefoot children and battered vans carrying the fading leg-

end "Birmingham Engineers Department" must depart.

"There's more teenagers joining us from the cities", Mr Hunt says. "It's much better being out of work amidst beauty. But I keep seeing flower people in their furries at the festivals, but never on the road. I think they just jump in their Volvos and go back to Chelsea."

"I wouldn't mind staying here for a fortnight or so", he adds. "The countryside is so beautiful. There's no point in trying for Stonehenge any more. We'll probably make do with Glastonbury."

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BARCLAYS

WORLD SUMMARY

Muldoon barred from Parliament

Wellington — Sir Robert Muldoon, the former New Zealand Prime Minister, was suspended from Parliament for three days yesterday for criticizing the rulings of the Speaker. Last night he declared himself unrepentant and said the decision would give him more time to watch the World Cup rugby games on television (Richard Long writes).

The decision, unprecedented in New Zealand's parliamentary history, came after Sir Robert produced a press statement accusing the Speaker, Dr Gerard Wall, of wrongly interpreting Speaker's rules and of continually interrupting opposition MPs. The parliamentary privileges committee found the charges amounted to a very serious contempt, undermining the authority of the Speaker. They rejected Sir Robert's defence that the comments were a recitation of facts and could not therefore amount to contempt.

Barbados leader dies

Washington (AFP) — Mr Erskine Sandford was sworn in as Prime Minister of Barbados after the sudden death on Monday of his predecessor, Errol Barrow, and pledged to continue Mr Barrow's policies.

"We've lost the father of independence of this nation," said Mr Sandford, aged 50, the former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education. He was sworn in by the Governor-General, Sir Hugh Springer. Mr Barrow died at his home, aged 67. The cause of death was not known.

Obituary, page 14

Zimbabwe 'infiltrated'

Lisbon — Mozambican anti-government guerrillas attacked bases inside Zimbabwe on May 31 in a move to draw Zimbabwean troops back from Mozambique to defend their own territory. Senhor Paulo Oliveira, the spokesman in Europe for the rebel Mozambique National Resistance (MNR), said (Martha de la Cal writes).

"The 12,000 Zimbabwean troops in Mozambique will have to withdraw now to defend Zimbabwe," he said, claiming that MNR fighters have been infiltrating Zimbabwe since the start of the year.

Victims named

Harare — Two West German tourists murdered by guerrillas in Zimbabwe on Monday have been named as Herr Hermann Portmann, aged 34, and Frau Maria Dorn, aged 33 (Jan Raath writes).

Herr Portmann came from Waldbrunn and Frau Dorn from Buchloe, both towns in the federal state of Baden-Württemberg. Embassy officials said the two were close to the end of an African tour by motorcycle and sidecar when they were attacked.

Pretoria's denial

Johannesburg — The South African Foreign Minister, Mr R. F. "Pik" Botha, has accused the US of reacting "too impulsively" in blaming Pretoria for raids last Friday on houses in Maputo, the capital of Mozambique (Michael Hornsby writes).

In his first unequivocal denial of the American allegation, Mr Botha said there was not a shred of evidence to substantiate it. "If there had been, the press would have been invited (to Maputo) in droves."

School cash for cars

Peking (AFP) — China has disclosed a major scandal involving more than 500 million yuan (\$81 million) of education funds used for other purposes, the *Guangming Daily* said. During 1985 and 1986 the funds were used to buy cars, build hotels and cadres' flats and finance businesses instead of being spent on schools, the paper said.

Delay on UK status

Paris — A decision on the future of Britain's observer status with Unesco has been postponed after a debate by the organization's 50-member executive (Diana Geddes writes).

Negotiations will continue on a demand that Britain continue to grant privileges to visiting Unesco delegates, and pay about £9,700 for observer facilities.

Gospels by laser

New York (AFP) — Laser technology will allow the faithful reproduction of *The Book of Kells*, an Irish illustrated gospel manuscript dating from 800 AD, it was announced here.

The 680-page original is owned by Trinity College, Dublin, which will co-operate with a Swiss publisher to produce 1,480 copies, using lithography and lasers.

Reagan to ask western leaders for part cost of Gulf protection force

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

President Reagan has decided not to press Britain or the other allies to mount multi-lateral naval patrols under a joint command in the Gulf, although ideas for improved co-ordination between American and British naval forces are being studied.

He is, however, expected to raise specific plans for sharing the financial cost of the operation at the Venice economic summit, which begins on Monday. The US believes that Japan in particular should share some of the financial burden.

Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, speaking yesterday on the eve of Mr Reagan's departure, specifically mentioned the possibility of a Japanese contribution of an "indirectly economic sort". He did not elaborate.

He did add that it was a matter "that we are trying to think out, and I assume the Japanese are as well". Specifics were to be taken up with Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, the Prime Minister. Japan is

constitutionally banned from sending warships beyond its territorial waters.

He noted that Britain's military presence in the Gulf region — two frigates and a battleship — was proportionally greater than America's and indicated that the US would not expect more.

Noting that there was also a French presence in the area, Mr Shultz said that the US was "not necessarily" seeking a greater military presence in the Gulf by the allies.

He also revealed that talks were under way with Saudi Arabia about specific details of flight patterns and fighter cover for A-7s surveillance aircraft operating from Saudi bases. As for improving co-ordination between American and British ships in the Gulf he said that nothing special needed to be done.

He confirmed that the possibility of escort fees for US warships protecting oil tankers in the Gulf was under consideration, together with other ideas. But he indicated

that the US, as the biggest oil consumer and importer in the world, accepted that it would bear the main burden of the security operation.

Mr Shultz declared that there was no need to do "anything special" to co-ordinate with the Soviet Union on security operations in the Gulf. The superpowers held regular talks to prevent incidents at sea.

The leaders at the summit meeting would also discuss terrorism and arms control, he said, adding that since the last economic summit a year ago, Libya had taken "quite a beating, justifiably".

He also noted that there had been a 33 per cent drop in international acts of terrorism in Europe in the past year and that the rule of law had emerged as "a useful tool".

He noted with approval the 45-year sentence imposed in Britain on Nizar Hindawi, who was found guilty of the bomb plot against an El Al airliner at Heathrow.

Leading article, page 13

Venice hit by summit fever

From Roger Boyes, Rome

President Reagan arrives in Italy today for his seventh Venice summit meeting, and he seems sure of a good night's sleep. A king-size bed has been flown to Venice, Mrs Nancy Reagan's room in the Villa Contarini has been

redecorated to her taste, with soothing blue wallpaper and Canaletto, and squadrons of security guards are on the alert to ensure that nothing wakes him up.

The President will rest in Venice for a few days, though he will receive regular briefings from Washington via the American Embassy in Rome, before moving to the Hotel Cipriani for the meetings which begin on June 8.

Mrs Reagan, who has a long shopping list (she has ordered two pairs of shoes from the designer Rene Caorilla, one black with rhinestones, the other white with pearls), will spend some of the summit period in Stockholm, the Venice of the North.

Meanwhile the Venice of the South, which has been

grumbling about too many tourists — it is thinking about introducing visas like an ancient city state — now finds itself swamped by secret service men. For two weeks an American official, under Venetian intelligence, has been practising landing a bullet-proof govt. This will be the basic means of transport during the summit, and memories are still fresh of how former President Carter was almost bumped off the boat by clumsy navigation in 1980.

President Reagan intends to swim every day while in Venice and an agent will test the waters of the swimming pool for mines or poison. Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, has reserved the Lido Golf Course for June 5 — when President Reagan is due to tape a television speech — and will challenge the President of the club, Count Lodovico Valmarana.

The Japanese Prime Minister, Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, is not taking risks either. He has sent a couple of food tasters to Venice.

French "cohabitation" also has its limits in Venice. President Mitterrand will stay at the palatial home of a friendly Venetian count, but the Prime Minister, M. Jacques Chirac, will be lodged at the Gritti Hotel with Mrs Thatcher.

Meanwhile, Signora Rosa Carbone has received a city contract to destroy as many Venetian gnats as possible by June 8. The gnats are a constant problem of the Venice summer: the swarms are almost impenetrable, and the island where the summit meeting will be held, San Giorgio Maggiore, is particularly vulnerable. Fishing boats have been commissioned to scrape away the algae around the island and head off the gnats. "We must move quickly," said Signora Carbone, a fitting message for a waterfront summit.

WASHINGTON: Mrs Reagan plans to visit anti-drug programmes in Sweden while her husband is in Venice, the eighth time she has taken her anti-drug campaign abroad (AP reports).

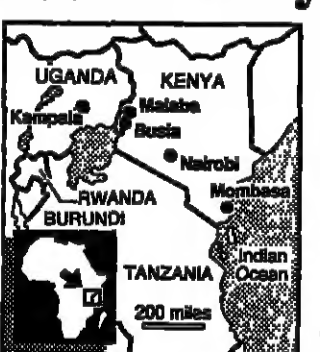
Tension eases on Kenya's border

From Alastair Matheson, Malaba, Kenya

Convoys of juggernauts hauling brightly-coloured containers groan sluggishly through the border posts which separate Kenya from Uganda, dwarfing the occasional cars which try to weave past them on this lifeline linking land-locked Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi with Kenya's port of Mombasa.

For a month, the border posts of Busia and Malaba have become the object of heated allegations in both Nairobi and Kampala, each Government accusing the other of impeding traffic flow.

Tension mounted so much last week that President Moi of Kenya flew to the border to



see for himself what the trouble was about.

Satisfied that on the Kenyan side "the border is as open as the road to Damascus", he stroled across the narrow "no-man's land" to the Uganda border, where he delivered an impromptu address

to a group of Ugandans peering through the gates.

Rumours from both sides have fuelled the rising tension, but high-level officials tried to cool public tempers once it emerged that both countries had contributed to what Moi called "imaginary tension". It started when Uganda imposed an \$150 entry fee for all visitors, to be paid in hard currency. Lorry-drivers must also pay heavy charges for using Ugandan roads.

On the Kenya side, Ugandans find that stricter entry regulations are being implemented: only those with work permits are allowed in, including even Ugandan lorry drivers, whose cargoes are left stranded.

Growth of anti-Semitic organization

Glasnost's open door lets in the Soviet fanatics

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

A sinister group of self-styled Russian patriots, with blatantly anti-Semitic views, and a philosophy which provides disturbing echoes of the Nazi Brownshirts, is rapidly becoming an unofficial force in Soviet political life.

Known as Pamyat, the Russian word for memory, the group has recently been exploiting the new policy of glasnost to attract thousands of supporters to meetings in Moscow and to affiliated organizations in other major cities, including Leningrad.

Pamyat, originally set up in 1980 as a society to protect historic churches and monuments, has recently moved close to the official arena with marches and demonstrations and a two-hour meeting with Mr Boris Yeltsin, the Moscow Communist Party chief and a junior member of the ruling Politburo.

The public emergence of the group and its ability to attract a growing number of young supporters despite its underground status (it is not registered) has begun to attract some fierce attacks in the more reformist sections of the official Soviet media

appalled by the bigotry of its attacks on Jews.

Although the group — whose leaders have so far refused interviews with western reporters — have latched on to some causes espoused by Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, such as the anti-vodka campaign, they are seen by many Soviet intellectuals as a front for conservative reaction against elements of the Kremlin's liberalization campaign.

In addition to Zionism, other targets for the vitriolic speeches of its leaders include world Masonry and alleged American influences inside the Soviet Union. In a blistering attack, the magazine *Ogonyok* likened the group to the notorious Black Hundred

movement which organized pogroms in Russia at the turn of the century.

The magazine quoted a three-hour speech by one Pamyat leader, Mr D. Vasiliev, which was delivered in St. Petersburg and taped for distribution throughout the country. Mr Vasiliev said, with the paranoia that is the

group's hallmark: "Around us there are enemies of the people. We have to tear them to pieces. And pound into dust everyone who is in our way."

According to the Communist Party youth paper *Komsomolskaya Pravda*, Pamyat members combine their anti-Semitism with assertions of their own superiority. They fiercely oppose the Kremlin's new policy of allowing Jewish emigrants to return to the Soviet Union and of allowing dismissed officials to retire on pension. "Instead they should be facing the firing squad", one speaker said.

Although Pamyat meetings cannot be advertised, they have been attracting large crowds. A Soviet reporter who attended one in Moscow wrote that the members "see Jewish influence everywhere, from a picture of the moon which is often featured on toddler's romper suits, to six-pointed stars which they believe often appear in Soviet newspapers in camouflage".

Speeches by leaders of groups linked with Pamyat have been circulating on cassette in Moscow for several months. The shadowy organization first grew up under government auspices but has since spread wider

into society and, according to the official media, has been attempting to infiltrate and compromise the new Soviet culture fund of which Mr Raisa Gorbachev is a leading member.

Diplomats who had originally dismissed its antics as those of a lunatic

● We have to tear them to pieces. ●

ultra-nationalist fringe have noted in recent weeks that it has been attracting increasing attention as its leaders capitalize on the nostalgia of many disillusioned Soviet citizens.

Last month, 400 supporters marched through the streets of Moscow, and their subsequent meeting with Mr Yeltsin is believed to be the first between members of a non-official group and a Politburo member after a public protest.

Officials who are opposed to Mr Gorbachev's liberalization drive are thought to be sympathetic to some of Pamyat's aims and there is now concern that the group will increase its influence among them.

End of a French drugs raid



A drugs dealer being arrested at gunpoint by a policeman in the Panier quarter near the old port of Marseilles. He was one of 30 people held by French police on Monday, bringing to a successful end months of investigation in an intensive operation to smash a large drugs ring.

Flurry of accusations over murder of Lebanese leader

From Juan Carlos Guncio, Beirut

Lebanon yesterday mourned its assassinated Prime Minister, Rashid Karami, amid a flurry of accusations blaming his murder variously on the right-wing Christians and on Israel.

The public controversy overshadowed efforts to cope with the political crisis and the official investigations to determine the origin of the bomb which killed Mr Karami as he was flying to Beirut on board a military helicopter on Monday.

In Tel Aviv, Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli Prime Minister, denied allegations emanating from Syria that his country was behind the assassination. "The Syrians know Israel has no connection (with the murder)," he said. "Israel does not intervene today in Lebanon's internal matters."

In a rare demonstration of unity, Lebanese Christians and Muslims joined in a national strike that paralyzed the country on the eve of Mr Karami's funeral, which will take place today in his home town, Tripoli.

President Amin Gemayel, a Maronite Christian, heeded recommendations by Muslim leaders and named Mr Salim Hoss, aged 57, as interim Prime Minister. A Sunni Muslim like Mr Karami, Mr Hoss is a prominent US-educated economist who has twice served as Prime Minister and was until yesterday Minister of Education and Social Affairs.

The mystery surrounding Mr Karami's assassination centres on two crucial questions: was the 10 oz explosive charge which killed him in midair planted in his briefcase and handed to him as he boarded the aircraft; or was it already under his seat when the helicopter arrived in

northern Lebanon to pick him up?

Some officials, speaking in private, were inclined to support the first possibility, which would have meant that the assassins were in northern Lebanon with him and perhaps even personally made sure that the Prime Minister placed his briefcase under his seat for the flight to west Beirut.

But the testimony of one survivor of the blast has augmented speculation that the bomb could have been planted before the helicopter

flew, "he said. The crime, in his view, sought to undermine all efforts at the unification of Lebanon. All suggestions linking the assassination with right-wing Christians have been denied vigorously by the Lebanese Forces militia.

Lebanese newspapers have their own theories about the assassination. The independent *an-Nahar* said that Mr Karami's death was conceived to sabotage an unannounced deal to end the government crisis provoked by his resignation a month ago.

According to the newspaper, President Gemayel would have accepted Mr Karami's resignation, but only as a formality. That step, and Mr Karami's ratification, would have served as a prologue for a broader political agreement which envisaged an enlarged Cabinet, paving the way for a series of reforms favourable to the Lebanese Muslims.

Al-Hakika, a Beirut paper which often reflects the point of view of the Shia Muslim Amal militia of Mr Nabih Berri, the Justice Minister, openly blamed the Lebanese Forces and called for the trial of its commander, Mr Samir Geagea, an ardent anti-Syrian Christian leader who had never disguised his dislike for Mr Karami.

The paper, which attributed its report to "a Cabinet Minister", said that the Lebanese Forces "controlled" several ranking officers of Lebanon's armed forces.

It suggested that two Lebanese Air Force pilots whose aircraft was diverted last week to Israel were accomplices in the assassination, and said that the interception provided cover for a meeting between the pilots and Israeli officials jointly plotting to kill Mr Karami.

Horror of Holocaust recalled

Lyons (Reuters) — The Nobel Peace Prize winner, Mr Elie Wiesel, said yesterday that the Klaus Barbie trial, in resurrecting the memory of crimes committed 40 years ago, would help to avert new horrors on a similar scale.

Mr Wiesel, who coined the term "Holocaust", was deported to Auschwitz in April, 1944. Making his first appearance at a Nazi trial, he said that he lived in a world of fantasy before his deportation, studying Jewish religion, awaiting the coming of the Messiah.

"My first contact with reality was the camp," he said. "A mad world where people pummeled other people, where bodies burned day after day, night after night."

He said that he saw his sister, mother and grandmother herded into the women's queue during the SS selection of new camp arrivals, and disappear towards the chimneys that belched flames and smoke into the sky.

"I cannot accept a world where little girls die that way, where small children are thrown alive into the flames," he said, referring to the death of his small sister and to an incident he saw at the camp.

Earlier, while visiting a stark, 60 ft memorial erected on Lyon's Town Hall square for the duration of the Barbie trial to those who died in the German camps and gas chambers, Mr Wiesel stopped before a photograph of the shaven, skeleton-like inmates of Auschwitz-Birkenau to point out his own face among them.



Mr Abrams swearing the oath before testifying to the joint House-Senate committee "Irangate" hearings yesterday.

Abrams denies leading Contra arms operation

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

Mr Elliott Abrams, the US Assistant Secretary of State for Latin America, denied yesterday that he had led a special three-member committee that directed aid and arms drops to the Nicaraguan Contras at a time when official US aid was banned.

But Mr Abrams, a hardliner who has been President Reagan's leading official for policy in Central America, admitted at the opening of the fifth week of the "Irangate" hearings yesterday that he was aware of arms supply efforts and knew that military assistance was being provided.

He disputed testimony given last week by Mr Lewis Tambos, the former US Ambassador to Costa Rica, that assistance for the rebels was directed by the three-member Government group which included Lieutenant-

Colonel Oliver North, the dismissed White House aide.

"He doesn't know what he's talking about," he said.

Mr Abrams told the hearings that Colonel North had told him that there was "a whole network out there" of private donors and bank accounts. He said he had once sought assurances from Colonel North that his activities were legal. North had told him he had never solicited "a nickel" of private aid for the Contras.

"There was no discussion of how this network operated, but it was quite obvious it was out there," he went on. "I think we knew it was supplying only lethal assistance as time went by."

Mr Abrams is the highest-ranking current US official to be called to testify on the scandal.

With the Soviet military establishment already in disgrace over last week's failure to prevent a West German light aircraft from landing in the shadow of the Kremlin, *Pravda* yesterday published excerpts from letters by two colonels attacking the country's elite military schools for turning out poor officers.

Although the attacks were not connected directly with the daredevil flight of Herr Mathias Rust, the 19-year-old West German pilot, Western sources said that they appeared to be a further deliberate dig by the Communist Party against the country's military leadership.

One senior NATO diplomat said that Mr Mikhail Gorbachev's confrontation with the defence establishment over the aircraft incident could pose problems for him. There were signs of deep resentment at his unceremonious dismissal of the Defence Minister, Marshal Sergei Sokolov, and the Commander-in-Chief

of Soviet Air Defences, Marshal Alexander Koldunov.

The *Pravda* article quoted one colonel from Leningrad as saying he knew from personal experience that graduates from the country's top military schools were usually bad military leaders in later life. "Often they are children and grandchildren from well-off homes — cosseted, spoiled kids whose families cannot keep them under control," wrote Colonel I. Tarasov. "My observations show that graduates of the Nakhimov School (a Leningrad naval college)

rarely become good commanders."

Another colonel, G. Salmin, claimed that the schools had been modelled on the Tsarist Cadets' Colleges before the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution, but were giving their pupils inadequate training. "The existing schools, which were set up on the model of the Cadets' Colleges, have turned into a refuge for parades and for making life easier for certain parents," he complained.

Meanwhile, Herr Rust remained under interrogation at Moscow's Lefortovo military jail, with no clear indication from the Soviet authorities about when charges would be brought against him.

● Bad example: The Communist Party Central Committee, reviewing the results of a two-year-old anti-alcohol campaign, has criticized party officials for failing to set an example, threatening them with dismissal if they fail to respect anti-alcohol rules.

At the same time, the Praesidium of the Supreme Soviet published a decree introducing harsher penalties for distilling illegal liquors.

"Secondary picketing... is a right that should be enjoyed."

Neil Kinnock on ITV last Thursday.



Labour promises to legalise secondary picketing and to destroy the Conservative trades union reforms that have brought us the lowest levels of strikes for nearly fifty years.

CONSERVATIVE 
THE NEXT MOVE FORWARD

Azaria case
pardoned by
over murder

Conflict still

SIX DAY
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1987

says thoma

Judicial inquiry finds dingo 'may have taken' baby girl

Azaria case couple are pardoned but may sue over murder conviction

From Stephen Taylor, Sydney

Mrs Lindy Chamberlain was cleared yesterday of having murdered her baby daughter, Azaria, almost seven years after she claimed that she had seen a dingo running away with the child, and five years after she was sentenced to life imprisonment.

An exhaustive commission of inquiry into Australia's most intriguing and baffling legal drama pardoned Mrs Chamberlain and her husband, Michael, who was convicted of being an accessory to murder, and concluded that a dingo "may have taken" Azaria.

A 379-page report by Mr Justice Trevor Morling, released in Darwin yesterday, states that the Chamberlains would not have been convicted if the trial jury had been in possession of the same facts available to him.

He blamed erroneous and unreliable forensic evidence, and said some important witnesses had not testified at the couple's 1982 trial.

Mrs Chamberlain was freed from prison last year pending the inquiry, which took almost a year and cost about \$A800 million (£2.64 million).

She said in a television interview last night that she was happy with Mr Justice Morling's findings, but disagreed that the convictions had not been quashed.

"There is no satisfaction in

getting a pardon for something you didn't do in the first place," she added.

The Chamberlains are also said to be considering a claim for compensation against the Administration of the Northern Territory, where the trial was held.

Justice Morling found that there were "numerous and formidable obstacles" to accepting the Crown case that Mrs Chamberlain cut Azaria's throat in the front seat of the family car at Ayers Rock camp site in 1980.

He balanced this against what he described as some "unsatisfactory" and "unconvincing" evidence by the Chamberlains, although this he thought was attributable to their shock and distress.

The inquiry was the fifth and final judicial investigation of a supposed crime in which no body, or motive, has ever been produced.

On the night of August 17, 1980, Azaria disappeared from the Chamberlains' tent at Ayers Rock in central Australia. Mrs Chamberlain claimed then - and has stuck to the story ever since - that she saw a dingo emerge from the tent with Azaria in its mouth.

An inquest accepted this account, but a second inquest produced new forensic evidence which led to the conviction of the couple, and

dismissal by the High Court of their appeal.

Mr Justice Morling made it clear that he believed the additional evidence turned up by his inquiry would have obliged the trial judge to order an acquittal.

He rejected the main point of the Crown case - that significant amounts of baby's blood was identified in the Chamberlain's car - and alleged that "bloodstains" under the car dashboard were very probably an insulation solution.

Mrs Joy Kuhl, the forensic biologist who did much of the blood-testing, was found to have lacked adequate experience for the task.

The judge also cast doubt on crucial trial testimony by Professor James Cameron, a British pathologist.

"Professor Cameron's evidence that there was an imprint of a hand in blood on the back of (the baby's) jumpsuit has been weakened, if not totally destroyed, by new evidence that a great deal of what he thought was blood on the back of the jumpsuit was, in fact, red sand," he said.

It was a pity, the judge added, that another British expert, Dr Patrick Lincoln, was not called at the trial, as he was in a position to dispute other important Crown evidence on "findings" of blood in the car.



Mrs Lindy Chamberlain attending an earlier session of the judicial inquiry which yesterday granted her a pardon.

Fijian troops shoot out tyres of UK diplomats' vehicle

By Nicholas Beeson

Fijian troops shot out the tyres of a British High Commission Land-Rover yesterday and slapped the British consular attaché, Mr Jim Liddell, one of the two occupants.

The incident followed an argument with Mr Liddell and the assistant defence adviser, Lieutenant-Colonel Michael Busby, after the two diplomats refused to let the soldiers search the vehicle at a checkpoint near the port in Suva.

Following what is believed to be the first shooting incident by the army since the military coup last month, the British High Commissioner, Mr Roger Baitop, delivered a strongly-worded protest to the Fijian Foreign Affairs Department. He is expected to present a formal written complaint today.

The incident came as the diplomats were leaving the port area after having visited Cable and Wireless's merchant vessel, the Pacific Guardian.

"The soldiers were under orders to search every vehicle that left the area, but the diplomats claimed immunity under the Geneva Convention," a spokesman for the High Commission told *The Times* by telephone.

In a 40-minute argument the diplomats demanded that the sergeant in charge of the checkpoint contact his commanding officer or the High Commission for clarification.

"The diplomats complied with every instruction from the soldiers, except allowing them to search the vehicle," the

spokesman said. He added that during the exchange Mr Liddell was "cuffed across the ear" by an angry soldier.

Later, Colonel Busby began to drive the Land-Rover away. He was ordered to halt and did so. Apparently to prevent the vehicle from moving again, two soldiers armed with rifles shot out one front and one rear tyre. Neither of the vehicle's occupants was injured.

It took another hour for the High Commission to negotiate the release of the two men and the vehicle, which was towed away for repairs.

● WELLINGTON: The Deputy Prime Minister of New Zealand, Mr Geoffrey Palmer, said yesterday that a Fijian request for the New Zealand survey ship *Monowai* to leave Fijian waters reflected "underlying tensions" following the coup (Richard Long writes).

The request followed the detention by Fijian troops of two New Zealand soldiers, both former members of the SAS unit, who were temporarily seconded to the staff of the captain of the *Monowai*.

Although the New Zealand soldiers were in Navy uniform, with Navy identity cards, they were detained when they were recognized by Fijian soldiers who had trained with them.

A Fiji military spokesman said that it would be a typical SAS operation to second the soldiers to the *Monowai* to gather intelligence in Fiji.

Mr Palmer denied that there had been any subterfuge on New Zealand's part.

Death penalty for top athlete

Colombo (Reuters) - A Sri Lankan judge yesterday sentenced to death a former Australian javelin champion, Reginald Spiers, aged 44, for having tried to smuggle heroin and hashish into the country.

Execution under Sri Lankan law is by hanging, but court sources said death sentences had not been carried out for years and Spiers was likely to be jailed for life.

Rock mosque

Gibraltar - Saudi money is to give Gibraltar its first purpose-built mosque since August 20, 1492, the day Spain regained it from the Moors and converted the principal mosque into the present Catholic cathedral.

Hostage freed

Oyarzun, Spain (Reuters) - Spanish police set free the personnel manager of a plastics factory in the Basque region who had been held for 11 hours by workers protesting at the threatened closure of the plant.

Bare facts

Santa Cruz de Tenerife (Reuters) - A man and a woman are in custody awaiting charges after being found making love naked in a central square in this Canary Islands town, police said.

Cinema blast

Chandigarh (Reuters) - A bomb planted by suspected Sikh extremists exploded outside a cinema in the north Indian state of Punjab, killing four people and injuring 20.

Border death

Budapest (AP) - A 28-year-old Romanian who tried to escape across the border to Hungary was shot dead by Romanian border guards on Hungarian territory.

Rare birth

Moscow (Reuters) - A rare black leopard cub has been born at a zoo in the Soviet Central Asian republic of Kazakhstan, Tass said.

Mirage aid

Madrid - Israel's armaments industry is to help to modernize 34 Mirage 3 jet fighters for the Spanish air force, sources indicated here.

Market bomb

Rawalpindi (Reuters) - About 30 people were wounded by a bomb blast in a vegetable market here.

Conflict still on peak of anguish

High on the Mount of Temptation, the laughing group of fit young Israelis, gone along easily over their shoulders, rushed happily past. "Welcome to Israel," one shouted. "I hope you like my country."

The Mount of Temptation is not, in fact, in Israel. This red-rock peak overlooking the lush green oasis of Jericho is traditionally the place where the Devil showed Christ all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. But from its windswept top the only kingdom that can be seen is that of Jordan, shimmering in the heat haze to the east. The rest of the stupendous view is over the occupied West Bank.

The youngsters, however, all born within a few months of the Six-Day War in 1967, have never known a time when the mountain was not in Israeli hands. For them it is naturally part of their country. They cross no borders to reach it. Army instructors teach them Jewish history at the top, pointing across the Jordan to the mountains of Moab, where Moses at last saw the Promised Land. For the average Israeli youngster the "Green Line" just does not exist.

The "Green Line" owes its name to the trees Israel planted along its ceasefire line after 1948. Where today the motorway between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem skirts the border the green trees of Israel to the south and the bare hills of occupied Jordan to the north show the dividing line more vividly than a fence of barbed wire.

The older generation remember the wire before what many call "the miracle" of the rapid victory in 1967. But the younger Israelis scarcely notice it.

The very opposite is true of the Arabs. Nearly 60 per cent of the population of the occupied territories have been born since the war. Another 20 per cent were just children at the time. Yet these young people appear to feel the occupation much more than do their parents. It is among them that the longing for the land seems strongest and the "Green Line" most real.

They have never known another way of life, but they have grown up resentful of the occupation and prepared to resist. Life in the camps is so bleak that they fear prison scarcely at all and call it "National Service for Palestine." It is easy and satisfying to resist.

Samir Rantissi is a 23-year-old student from el-Bireh who can still remember how frightened he was as a toddler when

his family fled to Jordan before the Israeli advance. Now he refers to the older generation as "the people of the shock". They do not attempt to do much, he says, because they were so shattered

by the suddenness and unexpectedness of the Israeli victory. Recent figures from the International Committee of the Red Cross show that there have been half a million arrests or detentions out of only 1.3 million living in the occupied territories. Some have been in custody two or three times, but the figures mean that at least 300,000 know what arrest means, and detention has become so common that even children have grown blasé about it.

Samir was arrested when he was 15 after a demonstration at his school in which stones were thrown at Israeli troops. "The soldiers rejoiced as though they had caught fighting terrorists," he remembers. "They twisted my arm and started beating me. As a 15-year-old you feel fear, but when you get inside the station and are facing interrogation you cease to think of yourself as a 15-year-old."

Stone throwing is the most persistent problem facing the Israeli security forces as they patrol the West Bank. It seems to grow out of the games of Palestinians and Israelis that the children play instead of cops and robbers. From that to throwing a stone at a passing Israeli car is simple. It is adventurous and exciting and the reward for hitting a car



Israeli paratroopers standing proudly before the Western Wall after having captured the Arab section of Jerusalem in 1967.

or a soldier is hero status and a feeling of pride.

The security services, known and feared as the Shin Bet, keep track of every youngster. By the time he is 17 every boy expects to have been called in for an interview and a detailed file is opened on him. Some boys, particularly the younger ones, are turned into informers by kindness or by fear.

The consequence is that Shin Bet is highly successful at tracking down activists. Even the Palestinian defence lawyers admit that confessions by suspects are usually accurate, although they are often claimed to have been extracted under torture.

The arrest success rate seems to have changed the character of protest. There are fewer cells of armed fighters, but the number of spontaneous violent incidents involving young people has risen sharply. This rise began after the signing of the Camp David agreement in 1979 and accelerated during the 1982 Lebanese war.

In 1977 there were on average no more than one or two reported stone-throwing incidents a day. In 1983 there were at least 15 a day and the figure has remained at about that level.

The soldiers, trained to fight real battles, hate crowd control work, which they are ill-equipped to do. Sent on patrol in West Bank cities like Nablus or Hebron, they will admit to feeling alone in a hostile world. "You sense all those eyes staring at you and hating you," a 20-year-old infantryman from Haifa said.

Some of the young soldiers take it out on the Arab population, which they clearly hold in contempt. While posted on rooftops, for example, they have been reported washing or even urinating in the water tanks. Other young soldiers, horrified by this attitude, refuse to serve on the West Bank.

Some agree to serve in order to restrain those who enjoy stopping and beating a passing Arab on the slightest pretext.

Just as the Arab children play their games, so the Jewish children play theirs. In one a boy will draw a cross on the palm of one hand and a Star of David on the other and hold his clenched fists out for his playmate to choose one. "If he picks the one with the cross, everyone laughs and calls him a stupid Arab," a 19-year-old girl soldier from Petah Tikva explained. "If you do anything stupid at school they call you an Arab."

Tomorrow: Economic legacy

Sir Joh in poll peace move

From Our Correspondent, Sydney

With just over a month to go before Australia's third general election in four years, there is a whiff of reconciliation between warring Conservative leaders.

The first peace move has come, paradoxically, from Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen, the archly right-wing Premier of Queensland, whose ambition to become Prime Minister, at the age of 76, recently fractured the loose but durable coalition between the parties of the centre-right, the Liberals and Nationals.

The two parties badly need to patch up their differences, because the disarray of the right has clearly enhanced Mr Bob Hawke's chances of winning a record third term for Labor on July 11.

Sir Joh could have played an important role in a united

Conservative effort, as he is probably the most widely-recognized politician in Australia after Mr Hawke.

But so far he has preferred to stake his chances on a personal campaign for the prime ministership, though he does not yet have even a seat in the Federal Parliament.

In the past two days, however, Sir Joh has backed away from his criticisms of Mr John Howard, the Liberal leader, and Mr Ian Sinclair, federal leader of the Nationals.

Some analysts see this as evidence that he recognizes that the snap poll called by Mr Hawke last week leaves him insufficient time to carry out his stated intention of fielding "Joh candidates" in every constituency.


It is also possible that his backers have realized that, for

all his support in the rural districts, most city voters view his ambitions with a combination of incredulity and apprehension.


For Mr Howard, a resilient and under-rated politician, there is clearly relief that a real test is finally at hand. Since Mr Andrew Peacock forfeited the leadership through carelessness in September 1985, Mr Howard has had a particularly difficult time.

The uncharismatic Mr Howard has not been helped by critics in his own party who have undermined his position from the outset. Some have proposed a comeback by Mr Peacock. There has even been a suggestion that Mr John Elliott, a businessman, be drafted as leader, though he has not yet been endorsed for a safe parliamentary seat.

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Amnesty says thousands tortured in Cambodia

By Caroline Moorehead

Thousands of political prisoners in Cambodia, held for years without trial, are being tortured or kept shackled in dark underground "coffin-like" cells, according to a report published by Amnesty International today.

The human rights organization is launching a fresh appeal to the Cambodian Government to end the human rights abuses and is calling on the Vietnamese authorities, who since 1979 have been assisting the Government in the administration of the country, to investigate allegations that

Vietnamese personnel are taking part in the torture.

For many ordinary inhabitants of the country the hope of a safe and decent existence promised by the fall of Pol Pot at the end of the 1970s has never materialized.

Information for the report comes from former political prisoners, former Cambodian security officers and the relations of men and women imprisoned.

Among the 400 cases on Amnesty International's list - only a small proportion of the several thousand political prisoners known to have been held in recent years - there are

farmers, fishermen, factory workers, students, teachers, Buddhist monks and army and police officers suspected of having changed sides.

The conditions in which they are kept are brutal. To extract "confessions" of opposition activity or information about Government opponents, prisoners are beaten with truncheons or iron bars, suffocated with plastic bags, burned and buried alive.

Injuries caused by torture and diseases contracted in severely inadequate sanitary conditions remain untreated, and food and water is reduced progressively to speed a

"confession". At least 34 prisoners are known to have died.

The guilt or innocence of these prisoners, the report says, appears to be decided arbitrarily by the Government and Vietnamese arresting authorities.

A former prison interrogator is quoted as saying: "Any activity felt to be subversive can be a reason to arrest, imprison and torture someone. It is OK to arrest someone by mistake, as long as no one is released by mistake."

Kampuchea: Political Imprisonment and Torture (Amnesty International, 1 Easton Street, London WC1X 8DJ).

People feel strongly about the post, says Thatcher

Royal Mail service 'will not be sold'

By Robin Oakley
Political Editor

The Prime Minister expressed herself an enthusiast for the Royal Mail yesterday and promised that in any plans to privatize the Post Office the mail service would remain inviolate.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher offered no reasons for the exception to the Government's general strategy of privatizing anything it usefully can, save that there was strong feeling about the postal service.

At her morning press conference, during a discussion on the nationalization of the energy industries, Mrs Thatcher suddenly volunteered to general surprise: "I have indicated that the GPO - the Royal Mail - would not be privatized. People feel very strongly about it and so do I."

She offered no more explanation, merely repeating

her pledge that it would not be privatized "because it is the Royal Mail".

When it was pointed out that people felt strongly too about the privatization of something as basic as water, and that there was a firm pledge in the Tory manifesto that the water authorities would be privatized, Mr Norman Tebbit, the Conservative Party chairman, broke in to explain that the water authorities had only been nationalized since the last war for the most part, whereas there had been universal postage since 1840.

Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, said that many people already bought their water from private companies.

It is understood that the Prime Minister's commitment did not refer to Girobank and the counter

services provided by the Post Office.

Mr Lawson made clear at the press conference that the Government's timetable for privatization in the next Parliament, should the Conservatives be re-elected, will begin with the selling-off of the British Airports Authority and will continue with the disposal of the water authorities and of the state-owned electricity industry.

It is expected that the BAA privatization would begin before the end of the year.

Mrs Thatcher and her ministers made clear yesterday, however, that there are no early plans for the privatization of British Coal, British Rail or British Steel.

Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy, said that the Government was committed to giving miners a direct stake in their industry when it was profitable and viable, but

he did not expect that to be in the next Parliament. Mr John Moore, Secretary of State for Transport, said that there were "no basic plans" to privatize the whole of British Rail.

The project which appears to have slipped somewhat, however, is that to sell off British Steel. Last December, Mr Giles Shaw, Minister of State for Industry, said: "The Government wish to transfer the British Steel Corporation's assets and activities to the private sector as quickly as is practicable."

But the commitment on BSC did not appear in the Conservative manifesto and yesterday Mr Tebbit said that, although British Steel was now profitable, it operated in a sector where there were considerable problems. "We do not see British Steel as an early candidate for privatization."

Mr Tebbit indicated that although the Government wanted to see the Rover Car Group privately financed as soon as possible there were no early plans for its privatization.

Labour well ahead in Scotland

Just before Mrs Thatcher arrived in Scotland for a rally, three opinion polls revealed that Labour is buoyant north of the border, (Ronald Faux writes).

The latest, to be published today by System Three, is understood to give national confirmation of two polls taken in the key Tory-held seats of Edinburgh South and Stirling.

The polls, for *The Glasgow Herald* and Scottish Television, indicate an equal swing of about 10 per cent away from Mr Michael Forsyth in Stirling and Mr Mich-

ael Antram, Scottish local Government minister in Edinburgh South and putting Labour in the lead in both seats.

Such a swing maintained throughout central Scotland would mean the departure of Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Defence, in Ayr, Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Secretary of State for Scotland, in Edinburgh Pentlands, Sir Alex Fletcher in Edinburgh central, Lord James Douglas-Hamilton in Edinburgh West and the loss of five other Tory seats.

The Scottish National Party calculates that the swing would make six Tory-held seats vulnerable to their candidates including Argyll and Bute (held by Mr John Mackay, Scottish education minister), Galloway and Upper Nithsdale (Mr Ian Lang, Scottish industry minister) and Angus East (Mr Peter Fraser, Solicitor-General).

More bindweed than roses in Labour policy, Owen says

By Sheila Gunn, Political Staff

Dr David Owen let loose a withering attack on his former party last night, stating that more bindweed than roses thrived beneath its surface.

Labour's image-makers tried to paint out the thorns, he said. But they were still there for all to see.

His demolition of the new-look Labour Party was similar to the Conservatives' sniping at what lies behind the facade of red roses. It also signalled the Alliance's switch of tactics to spend more time attacking Labour on issues other than defence instead of simply dismissing the party.

Speaking in Finsbury Town Hall, Islington, in north London, Dr Owen said: "In *Alice in Wonderland* the

gardeners painted the red roses white in a desperate attempt to cover up what they did not want to see. In the Labour Party's Wonderland, that nice white image is all we are allowed to see, and supposed to accept.

"However, you cannot disguise nature for long. The new Labour Party, more bindweed than rose, bereft of stick public relations, soft-focus lenses and whitewash, thrives just beneath the surface."

Taking the analogy over to local government, he said that it was time the country focused on the "suffocating weed" in Labour-controlled councils. Among his targets were:

● Lambeth: rent arrears of

£10 million, and 1,300 empty council homes.

● Sheffield: £54,000 on anti-nuclear activities.

● Derbyshire: £30,000 on grooming councillors for television.

● Leeds: Capital deficit of £700 million.

● Ealing: Rates up by 56.8 per cent.

"This orgy of self-promotion, self-interest and self-aggrandisement by the local left has resulted in an estimated total debt for Labour-controlled councils of some £2 billion last year, much of it owed to the gnomes of Zurich - in the 1960s the hate figures of the Labour Party."

not helping women.

The Alliance pledge:

● Separate taxation for women

● Tax relief on child care for working mothers

● Equal pay

● Equal representation on public bodies

● More help for women caring for dependents

● Equal rights as part-time workers.

Alliance promotes deal for women

Mrs Shirley Williams rounded on Mrs Thatcher yesterday for setting a bad example to women in politics.

As the Alliance promoted its policies for women, the SDP president said that the Prime Minister had been an extraordinarily authoritarian leader.

"That is not a good example for women in politics."

She brushed aside Labour's plans for a ministry for

women as "straight gesture politics of the most cynical kind".

Dr David Owen, the SDP leader, added: "We have no ghetto, no women's section, no policy to separate women."

Lady Seear, Liberal leader in the Lords and Alliance social services spokeswoman, made up for a lack of passion from her colleagues by using the press conference to wade in against the trade unions for

asked on one celebrated occasion when addressing an election meeting. "Because you are in Chatham", was the heckler's retort.

Nobody could accuse Mr Lawson of adjusting his remarks on any point of substance because he was in Yorkshire. This was a national minister speaking on national policies with no more than the occasional local pleasantries.

These were not large meetings and I doubt if Mr Lawson regarded them as being of any particular consequence. He was not cajoling support from his audiences. Rather he struck me as a senior minister who considered it natural that he should remain in office.

There is, I believe, a wider political significance in this attitude. The Conservatives went into this campaign with the reasonable expectation that they would be under pressure to justify a third term. Even if only subconsciously, the voters would be feeling that only a party with a special sense of purpose should be given such an extended run in office.

So the Conservatives produced the most daring manifesto that any sitting government has put before the British people for many an election. It was a calculated risk.

The manifesto invited attack. It might frighten off some voters. But it was positive. It demonstrated that the Conservatives had not done all they were capable of doing, and there was something to be said for the campaign revolving around the Government's ideas.

But that is not what has happened. The Conservative manifesto has not been the centrepiece of the campaign.

With the exception of the fracas over the education proposals - when ministers seemed either not to be sure or to disagree as to how their own plans should be put into effect - I still do not believe that either the manifesto itself or the reaction to it has had much impact on the country.

It is not because of the manifesto that the Conservatives have been so comfortably ahead in the opinion polls. It is, I believe, because so many people feel that it is natural for the Government to continue in office. They do not want Mrs Thatcher to go on for ever, but they do not think that this is the time for a change. Conservative fortunes depend upon this attitude lasting for another eight days.

COMMENTARY

Geoffrey Smith



Geoffrey Smith

Mr Nigel Lawson makes few concessions to his audience. That is his great weakness as a speaker, but it can also be his strength.

I have heard him address the Conservative Party conference as if the occasion was hardly worth the effort. He has fashioned parliamentary disasters through his insensitivity to the House.

The speeches I heard him deliver to meetings in Halifax and Keighley on Monday evening were decidedly above that level. I would not go so far as to describe them as thrilling experiences. Those who want more passion in their politics need not hurry to hear Mr Lawson. But the more thoroughly professional, work-manlike performances.

What impressed me more, though, was the way in which he answered questions. In an election dominated by "photo-opportunities", it was refreshing to hear serious, sober questions getting serious, sober answers. There were no frills and no concessions.

He answered a pointed question on economic domination by the South-east without holding out any false hopes of further regional aid for the North. He responded to an implied challenge to the Government's record on industrial research and development without conceding that it ought to be doing more.

He spoke about tax cuts for the high paid without a tinge of defensiveness. He neither hinted at an apology for those reductions which had been made, nor said anything to imply that further cuts would not be made in the future.

Politicians are often accused of tailoring their message to fit their audience. "And why do I speak about the role of the Navy?" Mr Harold Wilson

Parties not as far apart as they claim

By David Smith
Economics Correspondent

This week the parties are seeking to push economic policy to the forefront of the campaign debate. Differences between the party programmes, and the likely reaction of the financial markets to them, will be given added emphasis.

But the economy's performance will, as always, be mainly dependent on events outside any government's control. And policy differences in practice will almost certainly be smaller than those set out in the manifestos.

The three straightforward of the most choices to assess should be that of the Conservative Party.

On the assumption that the Conservatives will attempt to continue on their most recent policy line, the expectation is for further cuts in income tax, a reduction in public spending as a proportion of gross domestic product, and a fixed low level for public sector borrowing, at 1 per cent of GDP.

That policy, it is argued, has brought about low inflation, albeit in a period when the

world economy has not faced significant inflationary pressure, and it has recently brought about a modest reduction in unemployment, with the help of special schemes.

More of the same in policy, assuming no outside shocks, leads to more of the same in economic performance. Simulations by the London Business School suggest that another five years of Conservative policies would result in 2.5 per cent annual average growth, 3.7 per cent average inflation, but only a slight reduction in unemployment, to 2.8 million by 1992.

Labour's strategy has attracted attention on two main counts: the pledge to reverse the 2p cut in income tax introduced in the last Budget, and the promise to push public spending up and borrow more. Labour would also introduce a minimum wage.

Labour's policies, including extra spending on health, education, social security and the anti-poverty programme, would have an additional net

cost to the Exchequer over five years of £12 billion.

That comparatively small net cost arises from the fact that, as well as reversing the last income tax cut, Labour would not introduce the reduction to 25p expected from the Conservatives, if re-elected, next year.

Unless there is a hidden Labour manifesto, the fiscal programme is relatively modest. But, according to London Business School simulations, the effect would be to reduce unemployment to two million over five years, with average annual economic growth of just over 2.5 per cent.

The balance of payments would not run into crisis, according to the simulations, reaching a current account deficit of £3 billion by 1992, only £500 million higher than the official Treasury projection for this year.

The price for reducing unemployment would be in higher inflation. But the projection, of an average rate of 5.6 per cent over five years, is a long way from the 27 per cent inflation touched briefly in 1975.

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ISSUES

ECONOMY

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three economic policy choices is that of the Alliance.

Its public spending proposals, which includes more spending on the infrastructure, and jobs and anti-poverty programmes, have a greater net cost than those of Labour, amounting to about £13.5 billion over five years.

The Alliance also plans to raise the relative pay of the public sector and to use a counter-inflation tax to hold back pay increases. That would operate by penalizing firms paying out pay increases above an agreed norm.

If that worked, again according to the London Business School simulations, the Alliance could do very well indeed. As under Labour, unemployment would fall to two million, but, if the incomes policy worked, inflation would be cut to 4.9 per cent, and the surge in pay policy produces a £3 billion annual balance of payments deficit.

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ISSUES

DEFENCE

missiles, would be cheaper. Now it is admitted that there would be very little difference in cost. So would anything be left to transfer to the conventional kit?

Because the defence argument is focussing mainly on the nuclear issue, the conventional side is taking a back seat - apart from the political skirmish over Mr Kinnoch's remarks about Britain's ability to make Soviet occupation "untenable".

However, both Labour and the Alliance agree that after the election the party in power would be forced to undertake a major defence review, simply because, they argue, there would not be enough money to pay for the long list of requirements currently in the pipeline. While admitting that certain items would have to be taken out each year - or "moved to the right" - to make way for commitments such as the six Awas being bought from America, Mr Younger rejects the need for a wholesale review.

But the European Fighter Aircraft which is being developed in a collaborative programme between Britain, West Germany, Italy and Spain, threatens to be a prodigiously expensive project. The current RAF re-equipment programme, involving the Tornado, has turned out to be more expensive than Trident. The RAF wants 260 EFAs, each costing probably about £20-£25 million, to replace the Phantom interceptor and the Jaguar ground attack aircraft.

The pledge to keep 50 ships will also pose problems for whoever is in power, unless the defence budget is increased in real terms. There are currently 47, although the first Type 23 frigate, HMS Norfolk, is due for launching later this month. Every new frigate will cost more than £120 million and, unlike Trident, which will take an increasingly smaller percentage of the budget once it is in place, the cost of frigates and submarines is escalating all the time.

Mr Denzil Davies, the Labour spokesman on defence, said on ITV on Monday that some of the Trident money would have to be spent just to "maintain" the existing conventional forces. Anything left over would then go towards "improving" the defences.

The Alliance position has also become clouded. At the start of the campaign, the message was that its alternative to Trident, such as submarine-launched cruise

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ELECTION SUMMARY

Howe attacks Healey over nuclear U-turn

Sir Geoffrey Howe, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, yesterday accused Mr Denis Healey of performing "intellectual gymnastics" by reversing his position on nuclear weapons.

Sir Geoffrey, speaking on the *Today* programme on BBC radio, quoted a statement once made by Mr Healey, Labour's spokesman on foreign affairs, which said: "If unilateralism went into a Labour manifesto I would fight to change that policy before the general election; if I failed I would not accept office in a Labour government."

Sir Geoffrey said that unilateralism, now a part of the Labour manifesto, was the reason why Dr David Owen and others had left the Labour Party. "Why has Denis Healey not had the integrity to do the same?"

Mr Healey retorted that Sir Geoffrey was descending to levels of personal abuse.

No glitter for Steel

Mr David Steel yesterday rejected criticisms that his campaign style was "boring", and said he would not put on "a singing and dancing show".

Responding to a demand from Mr Cyril Smith for more razzmatazz, the Liberal leader said that he believed there should be "a proper balance between showbiz stuff and serious electioneering".

Last night Mr Steel was due to meet his advisers to discuss plans for the last days of the campaign.

Risking his neck

Mr Roy Hattersley yesterday ventured where Mr Norman Tebbit feared to tread and gave a hostage to fortune over Labour's promise to cut unemployment.

Asked at a London press conference if he would be worth re-electing if Labour failed to lower unemployment by one million in five years, the opposition treasury spokesman said: "If you want me to say no to that I gladly will because the idea we won't do it in five years is clearly preposterous."

Swingometer gives way to technology

The BBC is billing its election night coverage as the greatest technological event in television history.

The late Robert MacKenzie celebrated "swingometer" has finally given way to the latest in BBC gadgets: "The Battleground" - a giant new computer graphics display.

As soon as Gallup's 4000 poll comes through after the close of polls, the BBC will predict the new make up of the House of Commons. The battleground, featuring the 124 most marginal seats, will appear on the screen.

* If a Labour win is forecast, a Labour chart showing the 117 seats which have to turn red will become the set piece of the evening. A similar Alliance, Conservative or no overall majority battleground will be ready to swing into action.

Critical letter

Mr Denis Thatcher, the Prime Minister's husband, said yesterday that he did not "care a damn" that a letter he wrote criticizing Northern Ireland politicians had been revealed by the Reverend Ian Paisley.

Written on No 10 note-paper and dated May 10, Mr Thatcher's letter refers to Northern Ireland politicians who "steadfastly refuse to do anything at all in the government of the Province".

Ban on car fumes

The next Conservative government will introduce new anti-pollution and noise controls for small and medium-sized cars, Mr William Waldegrave, Minister for the Environment, announced yesterday.

Speaking at Wootton Bassett, Wiltshire, he said that proposed European standards for cars would achieve "huge gains" in controlling the most damaging pollutants.

Hattersley would end tax allowance

By Nicholas Wood, Political Reporter

A future Labour government would scrap the married man's tax allowance as part of a long-term plan for a comprehensive overhaul of the taxation and benefits system, Mr Roy Hattersley confirmed yesterday.

But the Labour shadow Chancellor rejected claims by Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, that the party had been "somewhat dishonest" in not including the commitment in the manifesto.

He also brushed aside Mr Lawson's accusation that, as a result, about six million couples without children of school age, including pensioners, would face an increase in their weekly tax bill of £7.

Mr Lawson said last night: "Mr Hattersley has at long last admitted that Labour would get rid of the married man's allowance. Now we have a better idea how Labour would try to fund some of their extravagant pledges."

Mr Hattersley told a press conference in London that he had announced the so-called secret proposal on the first day of the election campaign.

ELECTION 87 X

Party chiefs wary of passions in the Militant territory

By Philip Jacobson

There is something about the feel and taste of politics in Liverpool that sets this sorely tried city apart.

It is not easy to define, but it is none the less instantly recognizable: a blend of raw passion and unabashed prejudice which makes for campaigning at its most elemental, not to say entertaining.

The public relations experts stage-managing every last second of their party leaders' programmes would be hopelessly out of depth here, which presumably explains why the big names are venturing so cautiously into Britain's fifth largest city.

A good many Liverpoolians, of whatever political complexion, derive some ironic amusement from this. Mr Neil Kinnock's fleeting and unannounced visit last week, carefully skirting Militant territory, hardly enhanced his standing in a city that is odds on to return Labour MPs in five of its six seats (the other one looks safe for the Alliance).

As for yesterday's little foray by Sir Geoffrey Howe, peeping into a lion's den where the Tory vote fell through the floor at the recent council elections, it was a lifelong Conservative supporter who observed (expletives deleted) that Central Office probably thinks Liverpool comes under the Foreign Secretary.

Comparing such milk-and-water excursions to the tumult of Mr Arthur Scargill's first election appearance on Merseyside a couple of nights ago, one begins to understand how the tiny Militant faction was first able to seize effective control of Liverpool and why, after the political and financial traumas that culminated in



the suspension of 47 of its councillors, a clearly Militant-tinged Labour administration won control again in May.

The rain had been bucketing down all day, but the Old Swan college gymnasium was bursting at the seams by the time "King" Arthur strode in, hands clasped above his head, to speak on behalf of Mr Terry Fields, the Labour candidate (and former sitting MP) for Liverpool Broadgreen.

A firm supporter of Militant, Mr Fields is no mean orator himself, but everyone knew who had star billing that night and Mr Scargill obliged with a bravura performance.

Enveloped in the smell of wet clothes and strong tobacco down among the crowd, who received me courteously as a representative of the "hyenas of Fleet Street" being denounced on stage, there was no mistaking the intensity of the emotions aroused by Mr Scargill's furious assault on everything Tory.

The overwhelming impression was of people with a visceral belief that Mrs Margaret Thatcher and her ministers are truly consumed with hatred for them and their city and wished to grind both into the dust.

In the public house over the road afterwards, plenty of confirmed Fields supporters are agreed that the last Labour Government had done Liverpool no financial favours and that Militant had made serious mistakes when they were in control of the city.

"But they promised to build thousands of new houses in the rotten slums and create thousands of new jobs for people on their knees for work, and they did it."

What about the cost of all that, those controversial loans from French, Swiss and Japanese banks to get around Whitehall's spending restrictions that have now landed Liverpool with a debt that some estimate at about £800 million and crippling interest repayments?

"Look pal", a large man said not unkindly, "everyone in this bloody pub is up to their eyes in debt and looking for work. Who gives a stuff how much we owe the gnomes of Zurich?"

The magnitude of the financial crisis that will confront

the city next year — a possible budget deficit of up to £50 million and the prospect of every penny of capital advances being consumed by repayment of existing debts — is generally, if sketchily, appreciated. Yet ordinary voters in Liverpool do not appear to consider this a burning election issue.

One man who feels very strongly that they should is the veteran Liberal politician Sir Trevor Jones.

A great man for turning phrases (he once accused the Thatcher Government of "doing to this city what Attila the Hun did to Christianity"), he assails Militant's "deceit and Houdini sleight of hand" in juggling Liverpool's books for so long and says that the newly elected city council contains just as many hard-line leftists as before. "Mr Kinnock is fooling himself if he thinks he's swept out this particular nest of Trots."

The thought that many Liverpoolians may consider the coming election somehow irrelevant to their future worries Sir Trevor deeply.

"We're down and nearly out here, watching neighbours like Manchester start on the path back up. Anyone with a brain can see that another Tory government is not going to be all sweetness and light for us." Like most Liverpool insiders, he expects the Labour vote to hold more or less rock solid if only as an expression of abhorrence of Mrs Thatcher.

"But even if Labour gets in, there's virtually no chance they will be ready to bail Liverpool out. The Militant factor has completely tarred our name in the financial community, and no business is going to come in here with the city council as it is now."

Having won a clear majority of votes cast in the May council election, the Liberals are going to the hope that those who deserted the Conservative slate in droves will now help them to oust one or two of Labour's high-profile Militant supporters. The next round of council elections in May 1988 will, Sir Trevor predicts, finally deliver Liverpool to his own party.

By then, it is generally agreed, the city will be experiencing the sharpest bite of the "future financial chaos" predicted by its alarmed district auditor at the height of Militant's powers. To this day, there is uncertainty about how deeply Liverpool is in hock to the foreign banks, how much the previous council's "creative accounting" still buries.

But one thing seems crystal clear. If the crunch comes — many would say when — the city is going to need all its rare spirit and resilience to pull through.

Chatting with a very visible Liberal



Mr Cyril Smith, the Liberal candidate for Rochdale, talking to Mr Alan Hudson, a local butcher, in a shop. He canvasses as he shops — blurt, good-humoured, greeting most of the shopkeepers by their first name and never too busy to stop for a chat.

Indeed, Mr Smith has virtually dispensed with the set rallies and formal canvassing. Relying on his unmistakable visibility, he is happiest

strolling around the town he has given his life to as a councillor, mayor and MP for the past 15 years.

(Photograph: Barry Greenwood)

Cornwall's adoring Tory ladies cheer Cecil on his way back

By Alan Hamilton

Mr Cecil Parkinson strides into the sitting-room at 10 Downing Street accompanied by his wife, Ann, a trio of supporters and a round of warm applause from 200 party workers.

He sits at a blue-draped table while the rubicund Mayor of Falmouth slumps in Denis's favourite armchair opposite a portrait of Disraeli. The rehabilitation of naughty Cecil is complete.

But it is only a cardboard illusion. He has arrived, in a dismal Cornish rainstorm, to address the faithful in the Princess Pavilion, Falmouth, where that very evening the Falmouth Amateur Operatic Society are attempting a stage version of *Yes, Prime Minister*.

Cecil milks the moment. "I didn't think we arranged our backcloths as well as the Alliance, but this is ridiculous." His wife, seated beside him in regulation navy-and-white Maggie frock, gazes up at his considerable height as though trying to spot bats in the rafters.

Cardboard the set may be, but the party workers of Mr David Mudd's Falmouth and Camborne constituency are in no doubt that they would like to see him become familiar with the real No 10 again after his self-imposed absence.

"Nice to see you back", they say, shaking his hand warmly. "Hope to see you in the next government." They are mainly ladies of a certain age. Cecil charms them.

But to business, and to the defence of the First Lady (her Majesty excepted, although one sometimes wonders). "Labour is now using its traditional mixture of bribery, fright and personal attacks on our leader", Cecil says, waving his hands like an angler describing a salmon.

Labour has an orchestrated smear campaign against the Prime Minister, he claims. "Kinnock clicks his fingers and says: 'Be more unpleasant than normal, boys'. I think it is incredibly unwise of Mr Kinnock to invite the public to measure him up against the Prime Minister."

"Mr Gorbachev chose to spend 11 hours with our Prime Minister discussing world issues. Mr Kinnock argues about whether he had 20 or 25 minutes with President Reagan, who doesn't even remember he was there."

He is not, he says, going to waste time on demolishing the Alliance, which seems a grave tactical error in Cornwall of all places.

But he does force himself to tell a story about Mr Roy Jenkins, allegedly asked long before the Union of the Davids

if he would ever join a centre party. "I don't want to spend the rest of my political life playing my fuddled fiddle in the muddled middle", Cecil said Roy said. It probably sounded better in the original.

He goes on to extol the Government's record, and then momentarily sounds as though he is about to shoot himself in the foot. "Do you realize that in this country a man earning £65 a week pays a higher rate of tax on the sixty-sixth pound than an American multi-millionaire pays on his millionth dollar?"

That seems a pretty fair condemnation of Twopenny Lawson, but Cecil adds hastily: "We are trying to bring that level down. I am sick of hearing well heeled socialists say the country doesn't need or want tax cuts."

One thing Cecil, who was once nearly the candidate for Truro and who still has a house near by, cannot get away from is Cornwall's high unemployment.

He is asked about it repeatedly during the day by local reporters, but can plead only that it is not the Government's fault that the world tin price collapsed on top of two miserable summers. "If the unemployment rate is above average in some places, that means it is below average in others."

It's no good; he hasn't really got an answer.

But in the lunchtime drizzle in Launceston town square, in the heart of the North Cornwall constituency that the Tories snatched from John Pardoe, the local Tory candidate Mr Gerry Neale comes to Cecil's rescue. It is a proper old-fashioned hustings, a local tradition maintained at every election, but the Tory is the only one to turn up, addressing a crowd of 100 drenched supporters from his Pope-mobile-style campaign van.

Cecil has just done the joke about Roy's fuddled fiddle, which does not raise so much as a titter this time. Mr Neale takes the microphone and asks rhetorically: "Who says Margaret Thatcher doesn't care about Cornwall?"

He then tells an heroic story of how, at the height of the Falklands War, with HMS Sheffield just sunk, the Prime Minister stopped him in the division lobby and asked him how Launceston's aluminium ladder factory was faring.

Cecil, meanwhile, is among the crowd shaking hands with one and all. "We do hope you will be in the next Cabinet", an adoring lady says. As far as the faithful are concerned, Cecil no longer needs an aluminium ladder to climb from the pit of his temporary disgrace; he's back.

When all may not be what it seems

By Alan Massie

Party political broadcasts are now so slick that one longs for the old fireside chat. They are now as deceptive as soap powder ads, and, as with them, you cannot tell whether the people featured are real or actors. Labour's Scottish party political broadcast about education showed a concerned parent, by name Robina Goodland. Was this, one wonders, the same Robina Good-

land who stood as Labour candidate in Orkney and Shetland, in 1983?

Labour may say that the Tories started this trick with their line of Young Conservatives impersonating a dole-queue in 1979, but it leaves a nasty taste in the mouth.

Are those people in party election broadcasts giving out their own experience and opinions, or are they speaking words they have been hired to speak. And if the former, we should know more about them, in order to be able to evaluate what they say.

Meanwhile, Mrs Shirley Williams was discussing the all-important question of whether the status of women had improved under the Tories. To see her engaged on this sort of debate is to realize what a loss she has been to our political soap opera.

Indeed, exposure to television over the election period might convince anyone of the universality of *Dallas*. Spotting the likeness of at least one offered as a parlour game to beguile theedium of repetitive assertions. If this seems frivolous, blame the quality of the debate.

There was higher quality when Mr Gordon Wilson of the SNP and Mr Dafydd Elis Thomas of Plaid Cymru met Mrs Robin Stewart. Both took a detached view of the Westminster Show and were therefore able to talk like reasonable men. They even got a good caller, a Mr Morgan, who claimed the Prime Minister as Celtic. Sir Robin: "Mr Morgan, you seem to be a bit eccentric." Mr Morgan: "I am." But neither Mr Wilson nor Mr Thomas seemed eccentric at all.

SAYINGS OF THE DAY

● The Tory Party promised law and order. It delivered crime and riots — Mr Clive Soley, Labour spokesman on home affairs.

● Are we really asked to believe that the only people who can never negotiate, never compromise, never consider that anyone else may have a better idea than them are Mrs Thatcher and Mr Kinnock? — Dr David Owen, the SDP leader.

● Mrs Thatcher has turned her back on the north of England — Mr John Smith, Labour trade and industry spokesman.

● Labour want to remove incentives and to penalize enterprise — Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary.

● I said on television the other night I thought this campaign was the dirtiest of all and that is still my view — Mr Edward Heath, the former Prime Minister.

Livingstone's extremist politics made a burning issue by his opponents

Mr Ken Livingstone was standing outside the Central Middlesex Hospital in Brent, having gone to address a luncheon meeting of nurses, only to find nobody there. What, a radio reporter asked him, did he think of being one of the Left-wing candidates named on the Alliance's list of "101 Damnsations"?

"I would have said if I had not been on it," countered Mr Livingstone brightly. "But, like the film of *101 Dalmatians*, it's a pretty spotty list."

In Brent East, an unlovely swathe of north-west London that encompasses most of Willesden, Cricklewood and Neasden, the burning election issue is the extremism of Mr Livingstone's politics, at least according to his opponents. The Labour candidate, whose party machine found him a seat in the dying days of his beloved GLC by engineering the de-selection of the long-time sitting tenant, Mr Reg Fresson, would presumably think otherwise, but he declined to talk to *The Times*.

His principal opponent is the attractive, 39-year-old pregnant and unmarried Conservative candidate, Miss Harriet Crawley, who at least acknowledges that the affable Mr Livingstone is "a charming snake". But she says, his well-quoted observation that everyone is fundamentally bisexual is the statement of a desperate man. A combination of Mr Livingstone's reputation and the voters' experience of the Left-wing Brent Council, particularly in the field of education, may be sufficient to evaporate the 4,834 majority that Mr Fresson enjoyed in 1983.

In Brent East, the nuclear debate is not just about weapons; it is about families. A

CONSTITUENCY PROFILE

Brent East

CANDIDATES
K. Livingstone (Lab)
Miss H. Crawley (C)
D. Finkelstein (SDP/All)
M. Litvinoff (Gm)
R. Dooley (Ind Lab)

1981 % Own occ 41.1
1981 % Loc Auth 22.5
1981 % Black/Asian 29.9
1981 % Mid 52.8
1981 % Prof man 15.0
1986 electorate 61,396

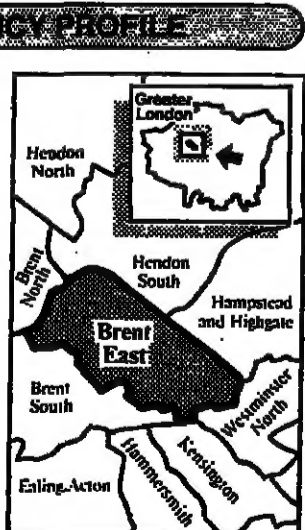
1983 General Election: Fresson, R (Lab) 18,363; Lacey, P (C) 13,529; Rosen, M (SDP/All) 6,598; O'Leary, J (Ind) 289; Downing, G (GWP) 222; Reddy, K (Ind) 88,484.

Key: % own occ: proportion owning their homes; % Loc auth: proportion of council tenants; % Black/Asian: proportion from New Commonwealth or Pakistan; % Mid: proportion of non-manual workers; % Prof man: professions & higher management.

great many voters, according to Mr Livingstone's opponents, object to the council's declared education policy of teaching children alternatives to the nuclear family, and raising their awareness of homosexuality. Objections are particularly strong in the immigrant community.

Tory hopes are not borne out by local election results, although they did snatch one ward at a recent by-election. From being a hung council with three Liberals holding the balance of power, Brent is now firmly in Labour control with an overall majority of 18. Since taking full control last month the Labour majority has withdrawn co-operation with the police and no longer attends the active local police community committee, which is well supported by Brent's ethnic groups.

Realistically, Miss Crawley does not expect the Conser-



Mr Ken Livingstone: nurses did not turn up to hear him.

didate, Mr Miles Litvinoff, a 36-year-old book-keeper, and by an Independent Labour candidate, Mr Riaz Dooley, a former London bus conductor who set up his own travel agency and is now known as The King of Bucket Shops.

The official Labour candidate appears sufficiently untroubled by Mr Dooley and his other opponents to spend much of his time supporting candidates in other constituencies. "Mr Dooley is not a member of the Labour Party; he's an entrepreneur whose business will do well out of the publicity," he told an interviewer. "I think he will owe me a free holiday at the end of it."

Alan Hamilton

● The SDP/Alliance candidate for Oxford West and Abingdon is Mr Christopher Huhne, not Kahné as stated in yesterday's constituency profile.

Tories have handsome lead, but they are not in the clear

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

The Conservatives have a handsome lead in most polls, but they are not yet out into clear water as last night's poll on BBC's *Newsnight* makes clear. On several of the issues that matter in this campaign they have yet to persuade the electorate that they have convincing answers.

True, when voters in 73 marginal constituencies were asked on May 29-30 who had the best policies for the country the Tories were in the lead.

They earned top rating from 36 per cent of electors in the Conservative/Labour marginals and 39 per cent of voters in the Conservative/Alliance marginals. Labour was second, with 30 per cent to 19 per cent for the Alliance in the first group and 24 per cent to 23 in the second.

But the gap has been closing. Compared with the corresponding poll on May 11-13 the margin between Conservatives and Labour in the key seats where the old enemies are fighting each other had closed from 13 per cent to 6 per cent, with Labour up five points from 25 and the Tories down two points from 38 per cent.

What is interesting is to look at which issues count as the deciding ones with the supporters of each party. Jobs and unemployment count particularly highly among Labour voters at 68 and 66 per cent while they rate only 27 and 30 per cent concern among Conservatives. Education rates pretty evenly among Labour and Conservative supporters, but just that little bit more among Alliance supporters.

Health care rates 53 per cent concern with Labour in Con/Lab marginals and 46 per

POLL WATCH

cent with Alliance supporters, but only 24 per cent with Conservative supporters.

On defence the picture is reversed: it is Tory supporters who are more concerned than the "caring" subjects. While 51 per cent of Conservatives in Con/Alliance marginals see defence as important, only 11 per cent of Labour supporters do.

The table spells out the real political lessons. It records how the different parties' policies on these key subjects are rated not just by all voters (in the second column under each subject) but (in the first column each time) by those who have identified the issues as important to them.

So in Conservative/Alliance marginals, for example, we see that among those who consider unemployment one of the most important issues the Conservatives are rated as having the best policy by only 16 per cent, compared with

PARTY WITH THE BEST POLICY

Conservative/Alliance marginals										
% of those naming issue as important (% of all respondents)										
Party	Jobs	Health	Education	Defence	Law/order	Other	Unemp	Health	Education	Defence
Con	16	(27)	16	(23)	35	(32)	67	(52)	57	(44)
Labour	49	(37)	53	(42)	32	(30)	12	(20)	12	(19)
Alliance	24	(20)	26	(21)	26	(24)	18	(18)	15	(16)
Con lead	-33	(-10)	-37	(-19)	+3	(+2)	+55	(+32)	+45	(+25)

Conservative/Labour marginals										
% of those naming issue as important (% of all respondents)										
Party	Jobs	Health	Education	Defence	Law/order	Other	Unemp	Health	Education	Defence
Con	16	(28)	13	(24)	30	(30)	64	(49)	48	(43)
Labour	57	(42)	59	(46)	41	(37)	17	(25)	22	(25)
Alliance	15	(15)	19	(15)	20	(16)	16	(15)	8	(11)
Con lead	-41	(-14)	-46	(-22)	-11	(-7)	+47	(+24)	+26	(+18)

Source: MORI

Soft voice of the hard left

Socialist saint or silver-tongued devil, David Blunkett is a politician who has built a national reputation by beating the hard-left drum in Sheffield — though he has not been adverse, his critics tell Brian James, to muffling the notes when it suits him

In the land of the blind, they say, the one-eyed man is king. But in the land of politicians, squinting one-eyed for a glimpse of the main chance, the blind man may be king-maker.

There is no greater certainty in this election than that the sightless David Blunkett is about to inherit Joan Maynard's 15,000 majority in Sheffield Brightside. Nor are there many who deny that destiny, rather than his guide-dog, Teddy, is about to lead Blunkett to much, much higher things.

In the public houses along Firth Park Road, this son of these sprawling estates is greeted with the fond local pride that Grantham beams on grocers' daughters: "Our Dave's on his way. You down there have seen nowt yet." That from a supporter. "Blunkett? He has been a ruler up here. Now he wants to rule the country." That in the sensibly low profile Tory Office.

Not since Herbert Morrison has a civic leader moved on to true national importance. David Blunkett now looks a better bet than Ken Livingstone to don his mantle. A fluent, persuasive speaker — only those fingers tracing lightly over brittle notes betray that the flow of figures and quotes stem not entirely from his head — he never needs to raise his voice nor "rubbish" a questioner to make his point.

He was born blind 40 years ago. His father, a gas-worker, died in an industrial accident during his infancy. In a bookless world, his O and A level, his degree in political theory, his postgraduate teaching certificate, are marks of great achievement. So, too, are the milestones of his 17 years as a Sheffield councillor, seven years as the City's leader. Gibes about the People's Republic of South Yorkshire are for outsiders. In the city they talk of the enviable services, transport, housing, jobs and welfare that he has provided.

Better still, Blunkett, with the blind man's marvellous ear, picked up the stirrings of unease on the fringes of his party. He most publicly backed Neil Kinnock on curbing the Militant Tendency, lashed at trendy Yorkshiremen who wanted to ban the word "black" from reference to accident black-spots, and devastatingly routed those who wanted to lavish money on schemes for disadvantaged minorities. "I am disadvantaged," he said. "Don't dare label me as someone needing pity."

It is odd then, that Blunkett should leave people who know him slit-eyed with suspicion about his aims. People in opposition parties. And in his own. A Labour Party insider, understandably shy with his name, said: "David Blunkett is going for the top. The very top. He has never made a single false step."

Why then has so powerful a potential figure played so low-profile a part in the election? He has put in the miles to visit other constituencies, certainly, but that calm, pleasant voice has been heard only on regional radio, non-networked television. Blunkett's party comrade helped compile this scenario: if Neil Kinnock pulls off a startling victory, he will not want to remember Blunkett as a man with whom to share the prize, and with whom to share the prize, and with whom to share the prize. If Neil Kinnock loses badly, Blunkett won't want to be remembered as a man who must share the blame. Thus he remains a potential replacement.

Mary Glyn, his young Tory opponent, says Blunkett has certainly softened his position. "But it is not for me to ascribe to that a motive." Her agent, Christine Smith, who fought Blunkett for eight years as a Tory councillor, has no similar inhibitions: "He is a very clever, very dedicated man. He is as left now as he ever was — but shrewder with it. Sure, he says all the right things — but only after he has let wrong things happen."



Blunkett, London bound: "I do not intend to spend long years walking between the backbench and the bars"

"He is against pandering to minorities. But we have an ethnic unit costing a fortune. He is against loony leftism. But our policy unit spends a million a year. This was the first city to fly the red flag, the first to have a Nelson Mandela building. Blunkett is against Militant. But Derek Hatton worked here under him for

three years — this was a learning centre for people like that. He is proud of Sheffield's achievement. Next year it will be bankrupt, with the bank debts he has left."

"This clever, ambitious man will run rings around Neil Kinnock. You'll all fall for him." There was clearly going to be no

shortage of subjects to discuss when I drove with Blunkett for three hours to and from a television debate in Birmingham. Our driver chose the off-motorway route over the hills, and David Blunkett selected a scenic route for our conversation — so many glimpses of the pleasing in the man's character and beliefs, so

little of the ugly realities of political landscape.

But he was pretty rough-tongued in his early days in Sheffield politics: "Under the most ideological government of recent times, the atmosphere everywhere was electric with antagonism. My own responses were in tune with that. It was wrong, and unproductive. I have learnt to be more subtle. And I know it works."

"A good example is our dealings with the Chamber of Commerce. God, there used to be some purple rhetoric. We exhausted all that. Now the chamber and the city council co-operate."

"You know what we have achieved. We have defended services, improved them. Gave the people for 12 years a transport service to boast about. Created 2,500 full-time jobs. Improved housing for those who didn't want to snatch at one of the right-to-buy bargains."

But at what cost — the flight from the city of industry because of the level of rates, the distress of home-owners facing £2,000 annual demands?

"I am not apologetic about that. There was simply no choice. If that was such a bad policy, why did the people not vote us out? Because they weren't paying the bills. Businesses were. 'We could have cut services. That would have meant losing 7,000 jobs. Devastation. Instead, 900 local firms have contracts with the council. A huge benefit.'"

So the time arrives for David Blunkett to step up to a national platform? "Not step up. I am already there in the NEC, chosen by the constituency parties — the only non-MP up to now. I have been a part of this election team and its thinking from the start."

He has no illusions about the Commons. "There will be lots waiting there to trip me up." From your party or the other? "Ha! Let's just say there are politicians lying in wait. Some who think I am already too big for my boots. That is a danger I recognize."

What will be his immediate future if Labour wins? "That's up to Neil. I am not naive, and in our party the shadow cabinet get the cabinet jobs. So no great aspirations, immediately. But I have had seven years of the best possible experience. False modesty would be silly. I have not started out for Westminster intending to spend long unproductive years walking

between the backbench and the bars."

What if Labour loses? "Not contemplating that. No, that's a silly answer. It just invites you to speculate. What I say is that if there were to be new shadow cabinet elections I must be interested. I have a lot to say. And I have to be taken notice of, because of my support from the constituencies. They really do have to listen to me in that role."

That, no doubt, makes him feel powerful? "That no doubt, makes me feel responsible. There will be a lot of talking to be done in the first few days of the next Parliament — and too much of it will be about who is backing who, instead of who is backing what."

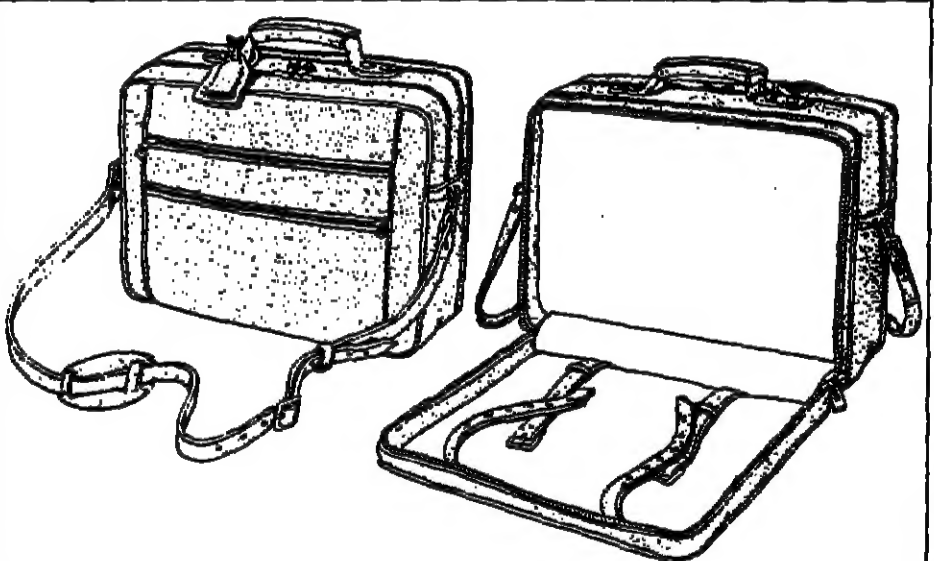
Blunkett insists he despises labels. Yet the fresh-painted sign "moderate" is no great hindrance as the wings of his party start dealing with himself as conduit: "Moderate? Um? Well I was surprised not to get on the Alliance list of 101 Labour lefties. Not bothered, nor hurt, exactly. But surprised. Because I am of the left."

'I have a lot to say — and they really do have to listen to me'

As proved by what beliefs? Blunkett listed nationalization — starting with the banks and insurance companies (including renationalization of gas and Telecom, re-paying only the issue price). A non-nuclear defence. Phasing out private education. Restoring tax-cuts and adding a wealth tax. And dealing dismissively with the Lords ("Flood it — with our lot") and the Monarchy ("Keep the top few — so long as they don't cost much").

Could a sightless man, even a man as bright as he, go so far to "change Britain — from the bottom up" with the handicap of needing others to do his reading and yet others to spot the stalking enemies? "I have an instinct, a sense, a smell for coming trouble. I couldn't have survived seven minutes, let alone seven years, as Sheffield's leader without it. I'll know what's happening in the corners of the room. And what to do about it."

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Owen's naval battle

Someone may well be tugging at David Owen's sleeve during his travels over the next few days and saying: "My liege, I have sighted the Spanish Fleet off the Scillies," or words to that effect. For while Owen plays a Drake-like game, attempting to break the mould of British politics on a national scale, a threatening issue is looming over the horizon of his own patch, the Plymouth constituency of Devonport. There are those who think it is time he stopped galloping round the country and paid full attention to dealing with the local foe.

It is a three-cornered fight in a large, struggling area. David Owen has just under a 5,000 majority over the Tory last time and a comfortable 11,000 more votes than Labour's bad third.

But even uncommitted observers predict it will be a close thing this time, with a slice of Dr Owen's vote possibly reverting to Labour. The source of the excitement lies beyond a long, bleak, barbed-wire-topped construction running like a miniature Berlin Wall along the western edge of the constituency. Behind it is the historic Royal Naval Dockyard, source of the area's wealth and main centre of employment.

Government policy has put the running of the dockyard into the hands of a private consortium, although the actual site and the infrastructure still belong to the Ministry of Defence. This, together with the run-down of conventional forces, has already cost around 4,000 dockyard jobs, with another 3,000 lay-offs said to be imminent; and the "dockyard factor" is the prime election issue.

Neil Kinnock's anti-nuclear

While David Owen is busy nationwide, a dockyard crisis is looming in his own constituency

commitment may be a dubious electoral asset elsewhere, but in Devonport the Labour candidate, Ian Flintoff, has been able to woo the voters with his tale of Labour's 50-surface-ship navy, with a dockyard restored to the Civil Service, and enough work on conventional naval forces to keep it going even for the children of the present workforce.

Labour's naval spokesman, Martin O'Neill, was almost doing the hornpipe and singing "Hearts of Oak" in Plymouth's Honicknowle working men's club yesterday, as he talked of ordering more hunter-killer submarines and re-fitting frigates to keep the dockyards humming until at least the 1990s.

As for Dr Owen, Labour claims that not only will the Alliance defence policy cost dockyard jobs, but so will the doctor's own admission that it should remain under private management.

With Owen elsewhere, the Alliance fort in the gentler corner of the constituency, furthest away from the dockyard, was yesterday manned by 22-year-old Jon Aarons, the full-time agent, recently of Exeter University.

"Dr Owen feels that he is on the box in people's houses every night," says Aarons, "and that that is a more powerful way of getting his message across than by tra-

ditional doorstep campaigning."

But what about the dockyard? "He was at the forefront of the campaign against privatization, but now he feels that we have got to be realistic and work with the current management. The unions in the yard agree with him about this. What we do feel, though, is that the workers should be offered shares in the enterprise and that their pension rights should be guaranteed."

But aside from details of dockyard policy, Dr Owen has the advantage of national charisma which the Alliance claims goes down well in Plymouth. "The Plymouth voters have always liked personalities," says Aarons. "This was, after all, the place which sent Lady Astor and Horre-Belisha to Westminster, not forgetting Michael Foot."

Certainly no one has forgotten Mr Foot. He turned up in his old constituency yesterday in support of Ian Flintoff, who is a man with a certain charisma of his own. Flintoff matches David Owen's two sons and a daughter exactly, and as an actor who has been with the Royal Court and the Royal Shakespeare Company he knows all about self-projection and the technique of the doorstep.

While these two slug it out over the dockyard, the Conservatives' Tom Jones, a well known, solid local figure, is quietly waiting for the voting statistics to even out to his advantage. Ironically, if the dockyard factor does pull votes for Labour it could be to the eventual advantage of the Tories, who have been painted as the arch-villains of this particular situation.

Pearson Phillips
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Moving around: David Owen campaigning in Birmingham

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1273

ACROSS	1 Across (8)	2 Across (4)	3 Across (7)	4 Across (5)	5 Across (5)	6 Across (5)	7 Across (5)	8 Across (5)	9 Across (5)	10 Across (5)	11 Across (5)	12 Across (5)	13 Across (5)	14 Across (5)	15 Across (5)	16 Across (5)	17 Across (5)	18 Across (5)	19 Across (5)	20 Across (5)	21 Across (5)	22 Across (5)	23 Across (5)	24 Across (5)
DOWN	1 Down (5)	2 Down (5)	3 Down (5)	4 Down (5)	5 Down (5)	6 Down (5)	7 Down (5)	8 Down (5)	9 Down (5)	10 Down (5)	11 Down (5)	12 Down (5)	13 Down (5)	14 Down (5)	15 Down (5)	16 Down (5)	17 Down (5)	18 Down (5)	19 Down (5)	20 Down (5)	21 Down (5)	22 Down (5)	23 Down (5)	24 Down (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 1272
ACROSS: 1 Crocus 5 Stripes 8 Elk 9 Aplomb 10 Indeed 11 Toss 12 Insecure 14 Undergraduate 17 Virtuoso 19 Arty 21 Change 23 Avidity 24 Owl 25 Crayon 26 Yankee
DOWN: 2 Repro 3 Crow's-foot 4 Sibling 5 Salsa 6 Red 7 Pierrot 13 Caucasian 15 Neither 16 Anomaly 18 Odour 20 Term 22 Ray

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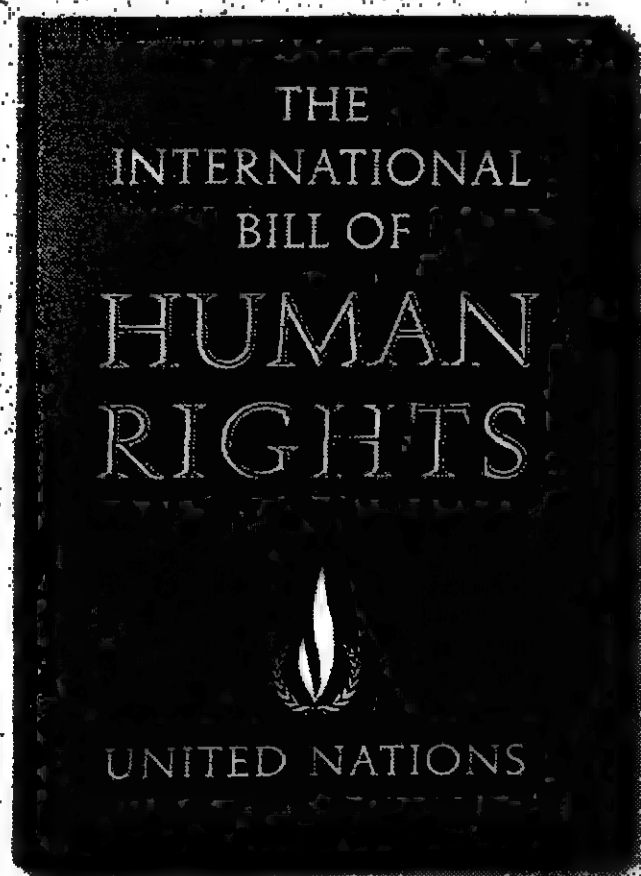
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"The State Parties to the present Covenant undertake to have respect for the liberty of parents...to choose for their children schools, other than those established by the public authorities..." United Nations Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. (Art. 13[3])



But now Labour appear to be fudging the issue of making education a state monopoly.

Their manifesto doesn't say they *will* abolish independent schools. And it doesn't say they *won't*. But voters need to know one way or the other before June 11th.

Because in November 1986 Neil Kinnock said: "Eventually we hope to make it illegal to charge for education."

And Roy Hattersley said: "We certainly will initially reduce and eventually abolish fee paying education."

The last Labour Party Conference voted overwhelmingly to take independent schools into public ownership.

Yet all you will find in Labour's manifesto is a bit that reads: "We shall...stop the diverting of precious resources that occurs through the Assisted Places Scheme and the public subsidies to private schools." What is this supposed to mean? They are not subsidies to the *schools* - only to *pupils* on merit or need.

There is no mention of the *real* subsidy - every parent who sends a child to an independent school pays for state education through tax and rates. This saves the government £750,000,000.

Considering the importance of the issue to millions of voters, why have Labour left out the bit that matters?

Labour could abolish independent schools. But not with any pretence of democracy.

About three-quarters of the British public consistently oppose abolition of independent schools when polled by MORI. 70% of trades unionists feel the same. So do the great majority of Labour voters.

The case for independent schools is not just a legal one. The alternative to them is a State monopoly of education. Who wants that? Not the British people. Nor any other democratic society.

Independent schools contribute variety, quality and innovation to our education system. They offer day or boarding, co-education or single sex, traditional or experimental approaches, religious or non-denominational, schools for the gifted and for special needs.

Alarm bells are ringing even among those who are not involved with independent education.

This is, after all, a relatively new Labour policy: the Party has moved a long way from its position in the '50s and '60s. *Aneurin Bevan* said that he would not prohibit independent education. And *Hugh Gaitskell* said: "To forbid parents under any circumstances to pay for the education of their children is to go too far in interfering in people's liberty."

Without this freedom of choice, there would be nothing to stop the State imposing its political ideas on every school.

Labour's view of independent schools does not fit the facts.

Two thirds of children in independent schools come from families where neither parent went to an independent school. At least 83,000 children are receiving education either free or for reduced fees. 25,000 are on the Assisted Places Scheme (which is supported by 60% of Labour voters) and the rest are being helped by the schools themselves - thanks to charitable status.

The SDP/Liberal Alliance aren't entirely blameless, either.

They plan to phase out Assisted Places and 'review' the charitable status of schools, even though Sir Russell Johnston, the leader of the Scottish Liberal Party, has written (May 1982): "Those who seek to remove this (charitable status) are almost always those who wish to destroy independent schools." Furthermore, legal opinion is that removal of charitable status would breach the European Convention on Human Rights.

How to get the full facts.

For your free copy of a Fact Pack which tells you everything you need to know about independent schools and the threat they face, telephone the ISIS (Independent Schools Information Service) Association: (01) 630-8793/4/6/7. Or write to: David Woodhead, National Director, ISIS Association, 56 Buckingham Gate, London SW1E 6AG.

Britain cannot afford to lose hundreds of successful schools. These schools should be available to more, not fewer, families. And parents want to keep their freedom of choice.

Please send this to your Parliamentary candidate.

I value the freedom to choose an independent education, even if I don't use it.

Signed _____

Name _____

Address _____



THE TIMES DIARY

All change at t'chapel

Methodism, that traditional Labour recruiting ground, appears to be withdrawing its backing for that Great Party of Thelms. An admittedly non-definitive Methodist Review survey of June 11 hopes reveals that only three of the faithful hope to enter the Commons for the first time on the Labour ticket: Hilary Armstrong, daughter of Ernest Armstrong, the retiring deputy speaker, Paul Boateng and David Blunkett. In comparison the Alliance is fielding eight Methodists, one of whom, Roger Roberts, is a minister. They hope to sit in the Commons alongside Alan Beith, the Liberal deputy leader and lay preacher. Edward Rogers, former president of the Methodist Conference, tells me that although there has always been some tradition of Methodist Liberalism, the shift is real enough. "It's now the Alliance that gives the impression that Labour once did — of a movement more influenced by Methodism than Marx." The Tories have only four Methodist candidates, but they do include two government ministers — Rhodes Boyson and Tony Newton.

Mustard keen

Neil Kinnock's sure-footed stomp around the country stumbled momentarily this week when, accompanied by full escort, he descended on the Derby factory of Rectitt and Colman. The firm, which employs 400, was pleased enough to see him but slightly surprised at being singled out for the honour. Last year it donated £30,000 to British United Industrialists, an organization that channels funds to anti-Labour outfits including Aims of Industry. The gift evokes Labour's 1983 campaign, which contrived to send Dennis Healey to a factory making parts for Argentine warships. To make things worse this time, one of the Derby factory's main lines is household aerosols, blamed by greens the world over for eroding the earth's ozone layer.

Plans by fashion designer Katherine Hammett to cut a record to go with her pro-Alliance Vote Tactically T-shirt have gone awry. I hear that she could not get the co-operation of the right-on record companies she approached or their more lefty artists.

Nap selection

For a man whose party had only eight seats in the last parliament, David Owen is a man of irrepressible confidence. Election bums from his Devonport constituency describes him as "widely tipped as this country's next Prime Minister." Puzzled, I phoned Owen's campaign headquarters which was responsible for publishing the leaflet. Isn't Margaret Thatcher widely tipped to stay at No 10? "What we mean is the next prime minister after Thatcher." And what about David Steel, I asked. "Our position on that is quite clear. An Alliance prime minister would be the leader of the party with the most seats." So who is tipping him as next prime minister? "Mrs Thatcher for one, and that's good enough for us." Perhaps I should remind Owen that Mrs T is said to have predicted he would be the next Tory PM.

In the wild

Shirley Williams' decision not to seek election as provost of King's College, Cambridge, the post held by her former husband, Bernard, means that it has gone — perhaps more appropriately than to a politician — to an animal behaviour specialist, Patrick Bateson, 44, who is the Cambridge professor of ethology and a fellow of the college, will take over Professor Williams' job in December. Mrs Williams is the Alliance candidate for the municipal university town, and said she would not stand for the provostship because she wanted to concentrate on her parliamentary campaign.

Essex County Council has wholly rewritten the Russian-language version of its tourist brochure aimed at Soviet seamen who come ashore at Tilbury. Where the first draft invited them to "escape to Essex" the booklet now suggests merely that they "explore beautiful Essex".

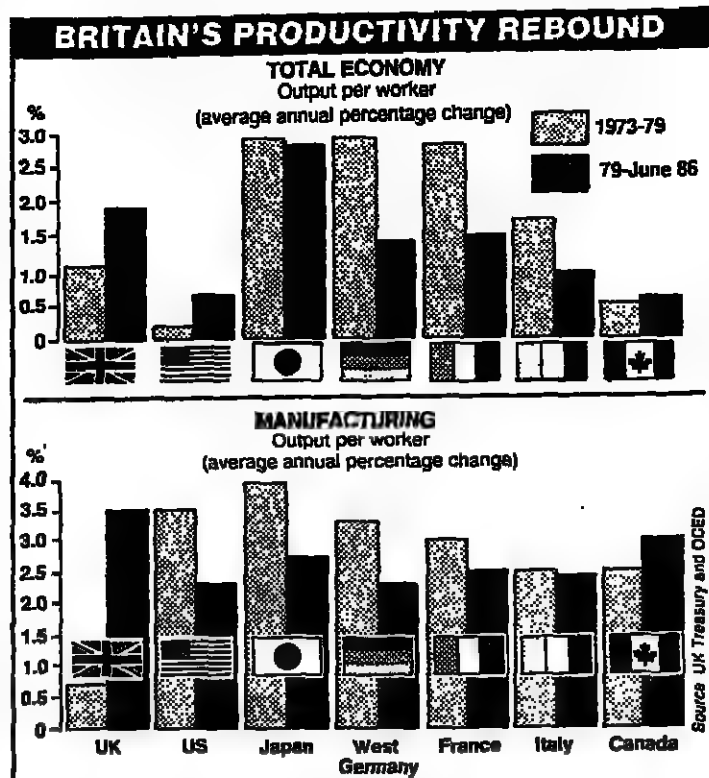
Bibliograble

A valuable stash of medieval Greek manuscripts, donated to Highgate School by the Victorian philanthropist, Baroness Angela Burdett-Coutts, is to be auctioned by Sotheby's later this month. The manuscripts were discovered last year in four Rinso cartons in the strongroom of solicitors Bower Cotton and Bower who they prepared to move offices. The school's headmaster, Roy Giles, admits that until then the gift had been entirely forgotten. It is estimated by Sotheby's to be worth around £50,000. The find has certainly excited Christopher De Hamel, Sotheby's medieval manuscript expert, who says it is now impossible to send comparable manuscripts out of Greece. They arrived bound up in string, torn and dusty. Though they could not be said to be the discerning collection of a lifelong bibliophile there is something terribly venerable about them. And only knows with Baroness Burdett-Coutts there have been nothing underhand about their provenance.

PHS

The slumberer awakes

How does America see Britain in the run-up to the election? Yesterday's Wall Street Journal carried this report by Peter Norman and Barbara Toman, its staff correspondents in London



London is emerging as a premier international financial centre. Some industrial sectors like chemicals and newspaper publishing have prospered; others, such as high-volume auto making, mechanical engineering and man-made fibres, have declined.

Many companies have not survived the Thatcher years, partly because the government's early policies subjected them to a drastic cost squeeze. When, in the early 1980s, the government didn't respond to industry's pleas for help, the result was a deep recession that greatly accelerated the shift from a manufacturing to a service-based economy.

Manufacturing output now accounts for only 24 per cent of British gross national product, down from 29 per cent in 1979. The service sector, meanwhile, has boosted its share of GNP to 57 per cent from 54 per cent. Manufacturing industry has shed about 1.9 million jobs in the Thatcher years, with half disappearing in the first three years of Conservative government as Britain experienced its worst recession since the last war.

Though manufacturing output currently is rising at a relatively strong 4 per cent annual rate, production remains 4 per cent

work. Britain has areas of inner-city deprivation and pockets of deep poverty. Random violence and occasional rioting preoccupy politicians and the news media.

The "underclass" of permanently disadvantaged people who escape both the responsibilities and benefits of society has emerged as an unwelcome but officially unrecognized by-product of greater reliance on market forces to govern the economy.

More positively, deregulation and reduced dependence on the state has brought a revolution in British performance and attitudes. A booming service sector has absorbed some but not all the lost manufacturing jobs and, more importantly, become a cradle for entrepreneurship.

The Conservatives took office in 1979 determined to defeat double-digit inflation and reduce income taxes. But their high interest rate policy took no account of the country's emerging status as a major oil producer. Moreover, a decision to finance income tax cuts by raising the standard Value Added Tax to 15 per cent from 8 per cent temporarily boosted the nation's inflation rate, which other policies were designed to cure.

Oil plus rigid monetarist counter-inflation policies caused a spectacular rise in sterling's value in the first two years of Mrs Thatcher's first administration. The soaring pound and consequent loss of industrial competitiveness forced industry to make plant and labour cutbacks to survive. The government in marked contrast to its predecessors — turned a deaf ear to pleas for subsidies.

If the recession made surviving industry stand on its own feet, the curbing of trade union power gave it more power to manage.

In March 1984, the National Union of Mineworkers flouted new legislation prohibiting strikes without a ballot by workers and began an illegal stoppage to protest at pit closings in the coal industry. The government, which left industry to fight alone against foreign competition, rallied the forces of law and order behind its trade union laws.

The miners' failure and the defeat earlier this year of print workers in a bitter dispute at a new printing plant owned by Rupert Murdoch's News International have marked the end of an era in British trade unionism. A new generation of union leaders advocates co-operation with employers in the interest of getting a better deal for members. "There's more emphasis on working together," says Bill Jordan, president of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers. "Confrontation has proved to be a job destroyer."

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Jo Grimond

Grand gestures but no jest

Fashion demands that parties at a general election must have portentous manifestos and heroic slogans. Not much laughter in this election so far. In Orkney at one election which I fought the Tory slogan was simply "Ban Jo". The name of the Tory candidate was John Firth. My wife presented a nomination paper on my behalf entirely signed by John Firth.

If the Alliance must have a slogan I suppose "The time has come" is as good as "Forward by the right" or "Time for a change". But it raises the question, "For what has the time come?" In the last week of the campaign, abuse will take up much of the time. But the Alliance must find a few minutes to sharpen up the reasons why we think this is a particularly important time. It must catch public attention by a style of its own.

I do not myself feel that this election will lead to moves such as followed those of 1906 or 1945. Unless Labour's defence policy is put into effect I can see no outcome so disastrous as the defeat of Home Rule in Gladstone's day. But the pressures are building up, the time is coming, if it has not actually come, when we shall have to change some of our habits and reform some of our bureaucracies.

We shall have to do so not because of attachment to some political theory but because people see that these habits lead to an unsatisfactory way of life, that our institutions no longer serve them and that we are abusing the possibilities at our disposal.

It is strange that at a time when Britons are richer and public expenditure higher than ever before, individuals are more in debt and all organizations, except the City of London, claim to be short of money. The trouble lies in failed expectations, frustration, the irritation bred by seeing our wealth wasted, the spectacle of inequality bred not by ability, nor even by birth, but by manipulation and inside knowledge.

The time has come for changing and opening up politics by raising new possibilities and expectations. That cannot be done fully in two general elections. In an election the ball must be played when it lands and it is often put into play fortuitously. But nevertheless how it is played is important.

What should determine how the Alliance plays the ball on taxation, health or education, for instance, depends on how we see the underlying causes of our troubles. Can they be solved only by the government spending more public money? Clearly not — yet higher public expenditure is a major part of the promise of all parties and the sole part of some policies.

Yet unless we find new ways of doing things and give people new motives there is no reason why greater expenditure should not end in more dissatisfaction, violence and destruction of the cities. Nor will the money be there unless the wealth is created.

To create genuine — as against paper — wealth, new structures are needed in industry. Labour is bankrupt of ideas. Its prescription for our troubles is more of the same pseudo-medicine which helped to create them. The Tories

have made moves in three directions which if not new have not lately been popular: parent influence in schools, wider ownership and enterprise. None is to be despised.

But the Tory attraction to them seems paternal rather than populist in inspiration. Nor do these policies seem an integral part of a general programme to spread power and wealth. Power in industry will still rest with directors and managers appointed by themselves or the large institutional shareholders. Power in politics will rest with the party machines. I believe the realization, perhaps faintly formulated, that they have lost control over those who run their lives is one of the main reasons why people are disappointed.

But Liberals should take care. They have caught the largely middle-class disease of committee-sitting, with all its dreadful paraphernalia of minutes, agendas and position papers, and tend to see participation as a glorious heaven of endless committees.

But that is not how everybody wants their lives to be run. In an ideal and truly liberal world we should all have the means and intelligence to make our own choices. As that is not the case we want those who run our affairs to treat us as equals and pay attention to our views and needs. I am not sure that people mind very much whether the schools are run by parent-governors, headmasters or local authorities so long as they are run for the sake of people and not bureaucracies.

It is said that Winston Churchill, when presented with a perfectly respectable and well cooked pudding, complained, "This pudding has no theme". Perfectly respectable political manifestos may lack a theme or even a joke which could lend them a distinctive taste. When it considers the faults of the old moulds which need breaking, the Alliance might consider that politics has become depressingly dull. Could it emulate Matthias Rust who landed his aeroplane without benefit of apparatus in Moscow in the centre of paternalist pomposity?

The Alliance has talked excellent sense in the election campaign. It would be silly for it to devote all its energies now to the knockabout Tory-Labour battle in the last week. Let it fire some shots, by all means, but let it make clear that the Tory v Labour battle is not its battle.

Its battle is still against the mould: the mould which has reduced politics to a contest between bureaucrats and public relations officers or worse, in which the public interest is largely sustained as at a horse race, by guessing who is going to win: the mould which excludes new ideas and has drained from politics the zest which it ought to generate.

A little irreverence in the manner of Herr Rust would do no harm. Can there be any spectacle more absurd than a solemn competition between Mrs Thatcher and Mr Kinnock to show for television who is the most "caring" or "concerned"?

The author was leader of the Liberal Party, 1956-67.

however... Simon Barnes Conned on all continents

The first time I arrived in New York I was full of fear. So is everybody. I might get mugged; but worse, I might look silly. Within five minutes my worst fears were realized. I arrived at Pennsylvania Station 'bout a quarter to four, as one does, and at once a young man in a baseball cap asked me if I wanted a cab. I said that I did; he at once took my bag to the street. I smiled; and New York cab drivers were supposed to be unhelpful.

But this chap was not a taxi driver. He dumped my bag at the side of the road and hailed a passing cab. "Here!" I thanked him for his kindness and gave him a dollar, but he said the rate for such a service was five dollars. I paid him five. Like an idiot.

But everyone is an idiot in a new town. When you don't even know how to make a telephone call, let alone get from one place to another, you are vulnerable, foolish, idiotic. This worries people, puts them in great fear of travelling. But the point is to pay your five dollars with a smile: it is not a wicked rip-off, it's the wholly justifiable payment of Idiot Tax.

Idiot Tax is levied by every airport taxi in creation, and I have paid it times without number. "Very sorry, forgot to switch meter on." "Fare is 100 baht one person, you are two person, so fare is 200 baht." "All taxi fares gone up — see this chart." "We said one-hundred rupees, yes?" No, we said one hundred. Then I leave you here.

"Fridays all fares are double." "This quick way, mister. Too much traffic other way." "One dollar each piece luggage." "Meter broke."

You have to pay for the privilege of being a stranger. You pay either Idiot Tax on demand, or you have it deducted at source by a five-star hotel, one which hires out its own limousines. The wiser, or at least the poorer, man pays Idiot Tax with good grace.

Once you have stumped up a few times you begin to get your eye in. For an Englishman this tends

to mean losing your fear of bargaining, your terror of the market-place, the British traveller's quite literal agoraphobia. You learn by your mistakes, which makes me one of the most learned travellers ever to set foot abroad. You travel on, sustained by a precarious faith in the ultimate good nature of man, ever fearful that one day you will make such an idiot of yourself that you will never be able to travel again.

I was in Trinidad for the cricket when I got on the wrong bus. An easy thing to do, since bus routes are a somewhat vague concept in Trinidad. It was just after midnight, and after 20 minutes' travel I noticed that I was heading in totally the wrong direction. I'm quick like that. The people showed me the place to wait for the right "bus" and I dismounted and left them.

The road was deserted, the street lights non-existent, the shadows deep. I had no idea in the world where I was, save that I was somewhere in or around Port of Spain. I stood by the side of the road, feeling puny, white, and alone. And at once two men materialized from the shadows. Both had ragged knee-length trousers, both were bare-chested, both wore dreadlocks that fell to the navel. Both were over six foot.

Ah, I thought, This time, I really have rather blown it. One said: "Hey man, can you spare me a dollar?" I gave him five and felt mean. He thanked me with good grace. He and his companion disappeared into the night as silently as they had come. Shortly afterwards, with the help of an illegal taxi, I was back at my guest house in the hills outside town. I had paid five dollars Idiot Tax as a charge for making a total fool of myself, it seemed immensely good value.

My traveller's faith in man, like a wobbly toy, receives blow after blow, but somehow always seems to stand up again. But one must pay one's Idiot Tax with a good heart, and travel onward.

Whatever the election result, Dennis Kavanagh sees no change for Labour

Why Kinnock will survive

Elections are cruel tests for party leaders. A prime minister who loses an election effectively loses all, as Heath and Callaghan found out. The leader of an unsuccessful opposition party knows that there will be malcontents who will say the party would have done better with someone else and doubt that it could win under him next time.

Of the two major parties the Conservatives have been more ruthless in dispensing with leaders who fail to gain or hold office. As the normal party of government it has placed a high premium on electoral success. The leaderships of Balfour and Baldwin hung by a thread after they lost elections. Sir Alec Douglas-Home was persuaded to stand down in 1965. In June 1970 party elders, anticipating a Labour victory, planned to tell Heath that enough was enough. Similar advice was tendered after his party's defeat in October 1974, but Heath ignored it.

Since 1955 the only Labour leader who has obviously not gone at a time of his own choosing was Michael Foot. The problem has been of leaders deserting the party, notably Ramsay MacDonald in 1931, and two former deputy leaders, George Brown and Roy Jenkins. Labour entered the present campaign fearing that if it continued to trail badly in the opinion polls it would be difficult to deflect the question: is Kinnock another Foot?

There is a Kinnock problem for the electorate. In April's Gallup poll only 26 per cent thought he was doing a good job as Labour leader, with 63 per cent disapproving, a score of minus 37. Mrs Thatcher had a score of minus seven. Steel, plus 28 and Owen plus 31. The approval scores on the eve of election for previous successful opposition leaders were: Wilson (1964) 58 per cent, Heath (1970) 28, Wilson (1974) 38, Mrs Thatcher (1979) 43. Only Foot with 19 per cent in 1983 has had a worse rating. The halo effect of Kinnock's leadership election in 1983 has worn off.

Voters like Kinnock's personality. He outscores Mrs Thatcher on being in touch with ordinary people, personal warmth and uniting the country. But on questions relating more directly to leadership capability — strength of personality, decisiveness and gaining respect for Britain abroad — he lags far behind until the last week or so. It had looked like the one-sided Foot-Thatcher contest.

Unlike Foot, Kinnock does not carry the scars of the 1979-83 parliament with him. The legacy of the winter of discontent, blood-letting over the party's constitutional changes, a divisive deputy leadership battle between Healey



and Benn, the departure of right-wingers to the SDP, and the government's success in the Falklands doomed Labour in 1983. There was no alternative.

Kinnock has had a much easier ride. He has earned it through his skill and courage and has profited from the party's "never again" reaction to 1983. He has tamed the party conference and national executive, routed the hard left, installed his own people in key positions in the party apparatus in Walworth Road and has had his way on the manifesto.

It is difficult to think of any postwar Labour leader who has enjoyed such a dominance throughout the party. Indeed the party has virtually abdicated the running of the election to Kinnock.

As leader, Kinnock has subordinated everything else to electoral success. Only 12 months ago, with Labour ahead in the polls, the talk was of Labour's remarkable recovery from 1983 and how much of this was due to Kinnock. Veteran frontbench colleagues enthused about his hard-hitting speeches at conferences and the left accepted the marketing of the party.

Yet today the electoral pendulum has swung back nearly to 1979, a bad result for Labour (Conservatives 44 per cent, Labour 37 per cent). Kinnock has so far gained rave notices — in part the consequence of the party's much reduced expectations. He is having a splendid campaign, his personality thrust boldly at the electorate. He is a man of the people, and his warmth, toughness, and indignation at Thatcherism may strike a chord with a significant number of people.

Even if the party ends up with approximately its present number of seats or is overtaken by the

Alliance in popular votes it is still unlikely that Kinnock will be made the scapegoat by a disillusioned party. It will be less a Kinnock problem than a more general "Is Labour fit to govern?" post-mortem. This is the issue which has long dogged the party. The divisions and rows make the party leadership appear weak and undermine its credibility as a party for government.

Kinnock's assets are the same as when he was elected: youth, widespread support in the party and lack of an alternative leader. In 1983, facing three other candidates, he gained more than 90 per cent of the union vote, more than 70 per cent of the constituency vote and nearly 50 per cent of the vote of Labour MPs.

The complicated new machinery for electing Labour leaders makes it difficult to unseat him. Neither John Smith nor Roy Hattersley, for example, can match his support in the unions and local parties, and these dominate the electoral college.

One scenario visualized by the other parties in the event of Labour doing badly is for the left to challenge the failed leadership. This is what happened after 1959 and after 1979. On this view, 1987 will be Labour's last stand and the party will split again. Such hopes are likely to be disappointed.

The left has largely had its way on policies, particularly defence, state investment and social ownership, and since the decline of Benn the mantle of Aneurin Bevan has fallen on Kinnock himself. Unlike Bevan, Kinnock will find the unions acting as his praetorian guard.

An alternative route is for Labour to attempt to mobilize a coalition of minorities — homosexuals, blacks and "women" — as in London. But this strategy is

already discredited and blamed by Labour leaders for the party's extremist image.

Kinnock's main concern will be to appease other front-benchers in the party concerned more with winning elections than with ideology. They will expect him to do what Gaitskill did after the 1959 election defeat — to weed out extremists, fight the "loony left" and return to the one person-one vote system in the party. It is when he has hammered his own left wing that Kinnock has scored most effectively in the press and parliamentary party.

Assuming it has lost the 1980s, what is Labour to do with the 1990s? Social change, political geography and the political agenda are likely to be even more unfavourable. Population movement from the economically declining North to the booming South, from cities to suburbs, continued reduction in the size of the manual working class (now less than half the workforce), and the rundown of nationalized industries and public sector payroll will take their effect.

Even more voters will be home-owning, white-collar, non-unionized workers in the private sector. On defence, local government, housing, education, taxation and privatization a radical third Thatcher government will have moved things on.

Another bad defeat for Labour may well mark the end of the road from 1945 and lead to a realization that Labour alone cannot oust the Conservatives. Yet it is a measure of Kinnock's dominance that he is still likely to be the central figure in any centre-left realignment.

© Times Newspapers, 1987. The author is Professor of Politics at the University of Nottingham.



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
June 2: Mr K. G. MacInnes (Her Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary at Manila) and Mrs MacInnes had the honour of being received by The Queen this morning.

Mr P. H. C. Evers (Her Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary at Algiers) and Mrs Evers had the honour of being received by The Queen.

The Queen received the Bishop of Oxford (the Right Reverend Richard Harries) who was introduced into Her Majesty's presence by the Right Hon Douglas Hurd, MP (Secretary of State for the Home Department) and did homage upon his appointment.

The Secretary of State for the Home Department administered the Oath.

The Bishop of Bath and Wells (Clerk of the Closet to the Queen) and the Gentleman of the Household in Waiting were in attendance.

Mr M. K. O. Simpson-Oribe (Her Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary at Lisbon) and Mrs Simpson-Oribe had the honour of being received by The Queen.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Master, this morning attended the Annual Court and Luncheon of Trinity House at Trinity House, London, EC3.

His Royal Highness was received by the Deputy Master (Captain Sir Miles Wingate).

Brigadier Clive Robertson was in attendance.

The Duke of Edinburgh, President of the City and Guilds of London Institute, this afternoon at Buckingham Palace presented the 1987 City and Guilds Prince Philip Medal to Mr C. J. Chetwood.

Afterwards, His Royal Highness, President of the British Amateur Athletic Board, presented the BAAS Trophies and World Record Plaques.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron, this evening attended a Reception given by the Air League for the Air League Educational Trust at the Headquarters of British Aerospace, Surind, London, WC2.

His Royal Highness was received by the Chairman of the Air League (Air Marshal Sir Charles Ness).

The Duke of Edinburgh, Honorary Fellow, subsequently attended the Royal Aeronautical Society Dinner to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the first run of the world's first jet engine at the National Westminster Hall.

His Royal Highness was received by the President of the Society (Professor John Stollery) and Sir Frank Whittle.

Mr Brian McGrath was in attendance.

The Duchess of York this evening attended a performance of *Manon* at the Royal Opera House followed by a Ball at the Royal College of Art, Kensington.

Luncheons

Law Society
Mr John Wickerson, President, of the Law Society, was host yesterday at a luncheon held at 60 Carey Street. Among those present were:

Sir David Napley, Mr Donald Troup, Mr John Wickerson, Mrs Theresa Grant, Mr George Ingle, Mr John Seaman, Mr Paul Matcham, Mr Richard Gaskell (deputy vice-president), Mr Brian Johnson and Mr John Hayes (secretary-general).

Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution
Mr Hew Watt, a Vice-President of the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution, presided at a luncheon held yesterday at the Café Royal after the 127th annual meeting of the Institution. Mr John Norris, President of the Country Landowners Association, was the guest speaker.

Media Society
Miss Barbara Hosking, President of the Media Society, presided at a luncheon held yesterday at the Café Royal. Mr Magnus Linklater, Editor of *The London Daily News*, was a guest speaker.

CLARENCE HOUSE
June 2: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother today honoured the Canadian High Commissioner (Mr Roy McMurtry) with her presence at luncheon at 3 Grosvenor Square.

Mrs Patrick Campbell-Preston, Sir Martin Gilliat and Captain Niall Hall were in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
June 2: The Prince of Wales this morning visited the Institute of Marketing, Moor Hall, Cookham, Maidenhead, Berkshire.

The Hon Rupert Fairfax was in attendance.

The Princess of Wales, Patron, London City Ballet, this morning attended a Reception in the State Apartments of Kensington Palace.

KENSINGTON PALACE
June 2: Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, Patron, The Blackie Foundation Trust, was present this afternoon at the Blackie Memorial Lecture at the Chelsea Physic Garden, 66 Royal Hospital Road, London, SW3.

Dame Jean Maxwell-Scott was in attendance.

The Duke of Gloucester this morning opened the Legionary Museum, Caerleon. In the afternoon His Royal Highness visited the Fortress Baths, Caerleon and later opened Yuasa Battery (UK) Ltd's new factory at the Rassau Trading Estate, Ebbw Vale, South Wales.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Simon Bland was in attendance.

The Duchess of Gloucester, as Patron, was present this evening at the Annual General Meeting of Council and Care for the Elderly at Plumstead Hall, 1 London Wall, London, EC2.

Mrs Euan McCorquodale was in attendance.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
June 2: The Duchess of Kent today named "Youth Endeavour" for the Britain/Australia Bicentennial Schooner Trust, at Lowestoft, Suffolk.

Her Royal Highness, who travelled in an aircraft of The Queen's Flight, was attended by Miss Sarah Parridge.

The Duke of Gloucester has become Patron of the Building Industry Youth Trust.

Reception

Air League
The Duke of Edinburgh attended a reception given by the Air League last night at the headquarters of British Aerospace and presented awards to the winners of flying scholarships and bursaries. He was received by Air Marshal Sir Charles Ness, chairman of the league. Among those present were:

Sir E. East and Countess of Kimberley, Viscount Gough, Viscountess Gough, Mrs John Seaman, Mrs Paul Matcham, Mrs Richard Gaskell, Mrs Brian Johnson and Mrs John Hayes.

Service dinners
HMS Glasgow
A dinner was held in the Wardroom of the West Indies Guardship, HMS Glasgow, on May 31, while at anchor off Belize to celebrate St Barbara's Day (Patron Saint of Gunners). Officers from the Resident Army Garrison were the guests. Lieutenant-Commander M.J. O'Connell presided.

Rifle Brigade
General Sir Richard Worsley presided at the annual dinner of the Rifle Brigade held last night at the Cavalry and Guards Club.

Dinner
Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain
Dr Geoffrey Booth, President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, presided at a dinner held last night at the society's headquarters, 1 Lambeth High Street, Professor S.R. Sutherland, Principal of King's College London, also spoke.

Science report

Roman granary found

By Norman Hammond, Archaeology Correspondent

A Roman army stores depot has been discovered on the Welsh border, apparently part of the infrastructure for the conquest of Britain in the middle of the first century AD.

A polygonal enclosure covering nearly three acres was located on aerial photographs, and has now been tested by excavation, resulting in the discovery of the foundations of a granary.

The site, at Llansantffraid-ym-Mechain in Powys, lies on a prominent bluff overlooking one of the most strategic river confluences of the border region, on the Wyrnwy, not far upstream from where it is joined by the Tanat and both then flow into the Severn.

Downstream on the Severn lies the legionary fortress of Viroconium at Wroxeter, while not far north of the confluence is the Rhya Park fortress, midway between Wroxeter and Chester and commanding the entrance to the Llanello Pass westward into Wales.

The enclosure was first noted last year during analysis of photographs taken in the dry summer of 1986. Little is visible on the surface, but an area of 2.8 acres (1.26 hectares) and two entrances for the polygonal compound are suggested. A series of circular crop marks in parallel lines indicated the possible site of a granary.

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Memorial service
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The Dean of St Paul's officiated, assisted by the Rev Michael Beck. The Rev Peter Moss and the Rev Graham Routledge read the lessons. Professor Sir Bryan Thwaites gave an address. Others present included: Lady Gorell Barnes (widow), Mr and Mrs David Barnes, Mr and Mrs Edward Arnold and Mr and Mrs Ian

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HMS Glasgow
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The new idols of the economic 'miracle'

Italy has rediscovered capitalism and may economically have overtaken Britain, but will this new renaissance survive?

Italy will be the host next week in Venice of the summit of the seven most highly industrialized democracies and, more by bad management than by luck, will present a complicated picture of its own supposed "second economic renaissance."

The Italian economy has undergone a transformation in the last few years. The "second renaissance" tag was provided by the American press. The Italians themselves are responsible for the idea that their country has already overtaken Britain to become the fifth world power in terms of economic strength and is now swiftly pursuing France.

The real strength of the Italian position is now being calculated with a certain amount more pragmatism given the fears of an international recession, which would have immediate effects on an economy as vulnerable as Italy's.

The real question which the Italians must seek to answer is whether they are in the midst of a moment of grace or whether their obvious economic energy is just a lucky streak which sooner or later will be exhausted, leaving them with their familiar problems still to be solved, of which the most serious remains the gap between north and south.

One point is clear, and has been a constant in all the more responsible accounts of the state of the economy. Industrial production is following a stolid 3 per cent annual increase which in no way reflects a boom.

As Luigi Lucchini, chairman of the Confederation of Industry, told his fellow industrialists in his farewell speech last month: "In the last six years, industrial production has not grown: it was 100 in 1980 and 100 it remained at the end of 1986."

As far as overtaking Britain for the fifth position is concerned, Romano Prodi, chairman of Iri, the huge state holding company, has for months



Gianni Agnelli of Fiat: the face on the magazine covers

been pointing out that if Britain has been overtaken it is not because the Italians have gone forward but because the British have dropped back in the race.

Warnings are frequent about what is seen to be British weakness, particularly in recognizing the true nature of the British role. And so Raul Gardini, now chairman of Ferruzzi, the head of the biggest private group after Fiat, says that Britain may not yet have been overtaken by Italy, but will be shortly if the British do not concentrate to better effect on their place in Europe.

Nevertheless, the real question is not one of what the statistics say about the international placings. This sort of calculation is a reminder of Gore Vidal's early thriller about death in the ballet which saw the leading ballerina die while holding perfectly the fifth position.

There has been a fundamental change in the outlook of Italian industrialists which can be described as psychological or cultural more than a change in the immediate statistics.

To return once more to Signor Gardini, he states explicitly that one of the distinguishing features of the new form of capitalism now taking shape in Italy, which he sees as more sophisticated because more human than the Anglo-Saxon version, is that it is oriented towards the future and not just intended to make quick profits.

He believes that the failures of United States capitalism in Latin America — "where they are unable to

see beyond their noses" — underlines the need for a fresh approach to defining the nature of capitalism by Europeans.

He sees the Italian contribution to this debate as deriving from the consideration that real capitalism never existed in the past in Italy and so, now that it is arriving, can create something totally new as it does not have to follow historic models.

This idea that capitalism has finally appeared on the scene is put forward from many sides, in different forms. Gianni Agnelli, chairman of Fiat and for years Italy's model of what a capitalist should be, points out that the profit motive is no longer an unacceptable notion.

A matter of a few years ago, in a country which was formally one-third Catholic and a third Marxist, profit was not a word that could be bandied freely. Now, with the decline of ideologies of all kinds, the idea of profit has become respectable.

Carlo de Benedetti, the masterful chairman of Olivetti, one of the companies which has symbolized the Italian economic turn-around, sees a transformation of the capitalist system, and, in a recent speech to industrialists in Ravenna, took his own share of the credit.

"Those of you who have followed my constant efforts over the last decade to promote and accelerate, above all by practical measures, the process of transformation of a capitalist system which had been left behind, by developments in capitalism elsewhere in the world, know very well

how much I believed in the revival of Italian industry when practically no one was willing to bet on it."

This self-proclaimed knight of the new Italian capitalism goes on to explain: "The rediscovery of real business methods is something which goes far beyond the boundaries of individual companies. It is the culture of the country which has changed, reviving a desire for capitalism, for development which, in the dark years of the great inflation and of the great crisis, had been forgotten."

The state industries have played their role. As part of the industrial restructuring, Eni, the hydrocarbons group, and Iri, the state's holding company, have emerged from a long period of losses and uncertainty.

The habit of international collaboration has grown beyond the historic multinationals, led by Pirelli, because the advance of new technologies has inevitably brought the need for partners in Europe because of the impossibility of success for a company acting on its own.

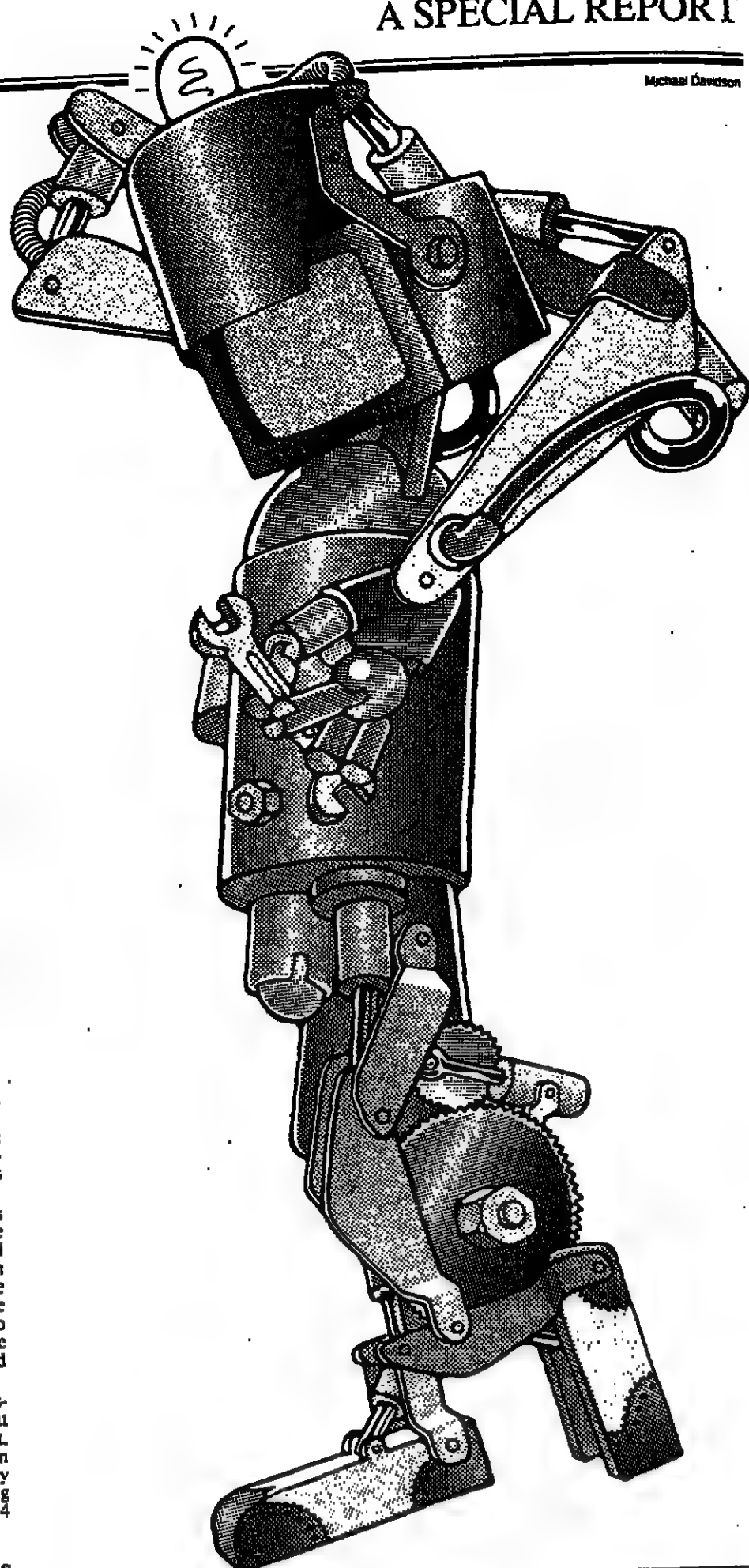
The great capitalists are now constantly on the covers of popular magazines. Gianni Agnelli always was but he has now been regularly joined by Signor Gardini and de Benedetti. Marisa Bellisario (managing director of the telecommunications group Italtel) and Romano Prodi, in what is certainly a sign of the changed public climate.

Technology has brought an unexpected dividend in the shape of the support it is providing to the traditional structure of Italian industry. The fragmentation of the economy in many small and medium-sized companies has always represented both its strength and weakness.

The point now reached, however, is not one simply of vitality and a change in outlook. Signor de Benedetti had already strongly made the point in public, which industrialists make freely in private, that they have engineered changes which can go no further until the politicians and the civil service follow industry's lead and become efficient.

The fact that a partially transformed Italy will be represented at Venice by a transitory government, placed there after the latest coalition fell apart, is indicative and regrettably emblematic. And no one is foreseeing much change as a result of the June 14 election.

Peter Nichols



Giants stride Europe's industry page

THE ANSWER OF THE MAN KEEPING UP WITH THE TIMES.



Nuclear Physics Laboratory into the Gran Sasso Tunnel.



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PAKISTAN • DOMINICAN REP • RWANDA • SENEGAL • SINGAPORE • SWITZERLAND • THAILAND • TANZANIA • URSS • ZAIRE • ZAMBIA

Would-be women managers in Italy are twice blessed by the success of Marisa Bellisario, the managing director and chief executive of Italtel, Italy's leading telecommunications manufacturer, because she has not only proved a remarkable top manager but is an excellent public relations performer with no signs of undue humility.

Signora Bellisario is just back from a visit to Japan, to which she was invited "as a top manager and a woman" to explain Italy and to help the Japanese prepare for the Venice summit of the seven most industrialized democracies.

"My story," she told journalists, "and that of Italtel are success stories. And so I am considered a personality symbolic of change in Italy, and as a woman more interesting perhaps than others."

She has recently published her autobiography, inevitably entitled *Donna e Top Manager*, using two languages, presumably to indicate the comparatively recent insertion of Italian companies fully in the world economic scene.

Certainly the big increase in international collaboration is one of the distinguishing features of Italian business under the new race of managers of which Marisa Bellisario is representative, even as a woman among them. She is unique.

She recounts in her book how many speeches she has listened to at international conferences which open with the words: "Marisa, gentlemen..."

Her achievements are certainly substantial and must be the dream of other girls who, like her, fell in love with computers before their studies were finished.

She took over Italtel after a formative period at Olivetti, at a moment in its history which she describes as dramatic.

"Thousands of persons, for the most part women engaged in the lowest working categories, were producing with a constantly declining efficiency, products already technologically out of date, which in part went unsold... at the end of 1980, with a turnover of lire 503,000 million, debts had amounted to lire 735,000 million."

"The factories continued to turn out, with obsolete methods and technologies, electro-mechanical switchboards unchanged for decades, which required a large labour force."

By 1986, Signora Bellisario had changed Italtel into a profitable concern. Her methods were to change from electro-mechanical to elec-



Marisa Bellisario: a remarkable woman at the very top

tronic production. At the same time she cut the labour force by about one-third, from 30,000 to 18,000.

Soft-ware specialists, system analysts and marketing experts took over in place of many of the blue-collar workers.

Her manner of approach is attractive without attempting to be seductive: she is more the "pirotte lunaire" type than a feminine version of a masculine manager. The strength of character is obvious, and she must have learnt a lot from her mother who, she recounts

in her book, was the real head of the family.

"My father grumbled, but adored her. It was she who administered the family budget. She was severe and we were a little frightened of her, but she was, and remains, our reference point."

Signora Bellisario was not among the leaders of the feminist campaign in Italy, and says that she regrets this. But she was constructing her own career and demonstrating "that I could do what men were doing, and perhaps do so better than them."

She naturally became a member of the Prime Minister's commission aimed at charting the way towards equality between men and women.

The object of this commission was to look towards the future and work for it. "This is exactly what I like to do."

And this no doubt is one of the reasons why the Japanese were so interested in hearing what she had to say.

Madam Butterfly had something to say about Japanese women at the turn of the century, but Italian women have a great deal more to say to them now, about how to behave in the full development of the technological society.

Perhaps that's what she is, the "Madam Butterfly" of a technological Italy.

PN



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Giants astride Europe's industry stage

One was born into money, one married money, and the third has made money. Giovanni Agnelli of Fiat, Raul Gardini of Ferruzzi and Carlo de Benedetti of Olivetti head groups which are private, profit-making and among the most powerful in Italy.

All three have expanded during the stable years of government under the nominal socialist Bettino Craxi, and show no signs of resting on their laurels.

Fiat, the oldest of the three empires, is also Italy's biggest private company, with 228,450 on the payroll worldwide and consolidated turnover last year of lire 29,020 billion (£13,820 million). Just over half, lire 16,400 billion came from Fiat Auto, which made 1,526,000 cars and provides one in two on Italian roads.

This was before it took over the loss-ridden, state-owned Alfa Romeo, to keep it out of the clutches of Ford and join it with Lancia, which it had already rescued years ago.

Since 1979 Fiat has been organized in 15 operational subsidiaries, but the foundations for success were laid by the first Giovanni Agnelli, the chairman's grandfather.

The group benefited from supplying vehicles and armaments in the First World War, and continued to flourish under fascism. Among the milestones have been its construction of a car plant in the USSR in the 1930s, and the help given at a difficult moment by Colonel Ghadafi's Libya in 1976 through the purchase of a 10 per cent shareholding.

Family control of Fiat has always been exercised through a holding company, Iri (Istituto Finanziario Industriale). Recently Signor Agnelli, aged 66, set up a partnership with members of



Car crazy: a tram edges through the busy streets of Milan, business capital of Italy; right, Carlo de Benedetti, chairman of Olivetti; far right, Raul Gardini, chairman of Ferruzzi

the family and two trusted managers to control Iri. This should ensure that, as grandchildren and cousins multiply, no outsider can buy their shares and step into the driving seat.

For years, Ravenna-based Ferruzzi, one of the biggest agro-industrial groups in the world, kept out of the public eye. Only now are group consolidated accounts being prepared, and such has been the pace of buying new companies that they may be incomplete by the time they appear.

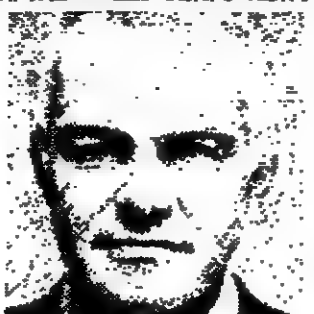
The group farms more than 24 million acres, most in the western hemisphere. In New Orleans it has built a plant to make ethanol additive for petrol from maize. In South America it has estates and plantations in Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay, as well as Brazil's biggest food company, Cica.

In Italy, Ferruzzi is prominent in sugar (with Beghin Say of France as well as Eridania), in agricultural oils, in soy cultivation (which it pioneered), in cement, in grain trading and shipping. Ferruzzi, after being rebuffed by the British government in its bid to buy British Sugar, took control of Italy's biggest chemical group, Montedison, and then bought the European operations of the US CPC (Corn Production Corporation) International.



The firm was built up as a grain-trading operation by Serafino Ferruzzi, a self-made man, killed in a private plane crash in 1979. Signor Gardini, who had been taken on in 1957 and married the boss's daughter, Ida, stepped into his shoes. The group is still controlled by the family shareholding, divided between Ida, her two sisters and brother Arturo.

Behind Signor Gardini's activity is a concept about the group's role. He foresaw huge agricultural surpluses building up in the industrialized world. Why not use them — cereals, sugars, oilseeds — as raw



materials for industry, and reduce pollution and destruction wrought by chemicals and artificial substances?

Carlo de Benedetti is best known for his leadership since 1978 of Olivetti, which he pulled around from an ailing typewriter and office-equipment maker to a European pacemaker in informatics and computers with net profits in 1986 of lire 565.5 billion (£269 million). Olivetti, partly owned by AT & T of the US, numbers Triumph-Adler of West Germany and Acorn of Britain among the European subsidiaries.

But de Benedetti's Euro-

pean empire is much wider than electronics. He has turned around the Buitoni-Perugini food group from loss to profit. His interests extend from car components and sophisticated machinery to finance and insurance and publishing (including the recent purchase of a small holding in Pearson of Britain).

Born 53 years ago in a Piedmontese Jewish family, Signor de Benedetti gained experience with a small family firm making tubes, but soon branched off on his own, showing financial and entrepreneurial flair.

He acts quickly and sometimes, his critics maintain, impulsively. Setbacks can result — a managing directorship at Fiat lasted only three months in 1976, and the deputy chairmanship at Banco Ambrosiano under Roberto Calvi only two months in late 1981.

The de Benedetti empire is the most disparate of these private conglomerates.

John Earle

Robots keep the great love affair sparkling

The Italian love affair with the motor car is as passionate as ever, with a leap of 8.7 per cent in production for the first four months of this year, compared with 1.6 per cent in Britain and an increase in exports of 50,000 vehicles by the Fiat-Lancia group.

In the Italian market, Fiat ended the first four months holding both first and second place in the list of most popular cars with its highly successful Uno and the resilient Panda.

With the purchase of the ailing Alfa-Romeo company from the state holding company, IRI, and the establishment of the new Alfa-Lancia company on January 1, the Fiat group nearly has a monopoly position as a producer in Italy.

And, luckily for lovers of Italian cars, this dominance coincides with a fortunate period of fertility in design, which means that Fiat is not, so far at least, tempted to rest on its monopolistic laurels.

The impetus provided by Fiat's emergence from what a little more than a decade ago looked like a deadly crisis is still powerful and is largely due to two fundamental decisions taken when the crisis was at its height: to diversify and to adopt the most advanced technology.

Diversification meant that the Fiat group is now only about 50 per cent concerned with making motor cars. For the rest, it includes companies involved in such genuinely diverse fields as the manufacture of semi-permeable mem-

branes for kidney machines, heavy earth-moving equipment, robotized mechanical-assembly systems and diagnostic kits to determine the presence of HIV (Aids) antibodies.

More than half of the robots at work in Italy belong to the Fiat group. Of Fiat's 1,200 robots, 1,000 are used in the production of motor cars. By the end of this year, Fiat will have at least 350 more robots

terms, and component-finished product transfer, and above all, checks, inspections and control systems.

In all, Termoli uses 103 computers to produce this innovative, low-consumption and "clean" engine.

The Cassino factory will soon be making a contribution to the more difficult process of automating final assembly. This will be when production begins of the Tipo Duc, the model which will replace the 10-year-old Ritmo, or Strada, as it is known in the UK. The object here was to pass about 25 per cent of final assembly to the robots.

The reason this is the most difficult process is that much of the work of assembly, such as, for instance, fitting a seat into place, is complicated for a robot.

Fiat engineers point out that they could, if necessary, provide a robot able to make an asparagus omelette, from the breaking of the eggs to turning off the gas. But the question would be whether the ingenuity could be considered worthwhile in terms of costs.

The advance to the 25 per cent figure of robotization has been brought about by the use of an assembly train that resembles a fish-bone.

The central spine remains intact but the smaller bones, which are formed by the cars in various stages of assembly, are periodically detached, removed temporarily from the main line while robots perform a process in the final assembly, and are then re-attached and once again detached for more attention from other robots.

All the robots used at Fiat come under the American definition of what constitutes a robot rather than the Japanese definition which allows the term "robotization" to be applied to what Fiat would regard as simply automation.

Fiat robots are described as highly capable at analysing and synthesizing immense quantities of information provided to them. They do so on the basis of the instructions given them, and at a very high speed. This is a long way from automation.

Doubts about the perfect motor-car marriage

Like every perfect marriage, the amalgamation of Alfa-Romeo, the most aggressive name in motor-car masculinity, with the softer charms of the comfortably elegant Lancia, was destined to bring its difficulties, writes Peter Nickolls. Especially when the temperamentally assertive Alfa was proving a problem-child while the Ariadne-like Lancia had already reached fresh successes under its new owner.

Alfa-Romeo ceased to belong to the state from the start of the year and passed to Fiat, where Lancia already belonged. Fiat made its successful offer

against a bid by Ford to buy Alfa. The new partnership of two famous marques, created what is now Fiat's monopoly of the Italian motor-car industry (Fiat also has Ferrari), which came into effect on May 4 when management of the new luxury company, Alfa-Lancia, led by Vittorio Ghidella, came to terms with the unions on how Lancia's bridegroom would be treated.

The negotiation took three months to complete, and the current combined production of 400,000 cars will be increased to 600,000. The Alfa-Romeo models of the future will retain their own

identity. But where possible, use will be made of the same components between, for instance, the successful Lancia Thema and the forthcoming Alfa 164.

That difference between the self-assertive character of the Alfa and the basic quality of Lancia, which allows one to enjoy in comfort its technological solutions, must continue to be self-evident.

Otherwise, the marriage could risk sinking into a relationship of mediocrity. This would be a betrayal of two famous names in motorcar history now coupled together for the first time.

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little doubt that during a test drive strong passions will be aroused. To arrange a test drive, contact your nearest Lancia Dealer. Or write to Lancia Freepost.

A Heron International Company. Lancia Freepost, 46-62 Gabyok Road, Crawley, West Sussex RH10 2SR. Telephone 0293 618533. Prices, correct at time of going to press, exclude delivery and number plates. Performance figures for Thema turbo from manufacturers data. Full warranty details from Lancia.



Italian Post Office: from the series "Italian industry working for the world" issued in July 1986.

PORTRAIT OF A WORLD LEADER.



Not long ago the Italian government issued a unique postage stamp; instead of a famous face, the stamp shows a portrait of a machine. Computer wizards will recognise Olivetti's M24 Personal Computer.

The stamp salutes the rise of Olivetti as a world power in office

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The awakening of a sleeping giant

How one man's vision of an industrial empire was born, almost lost and then revived

This autumn the state oil and engineering corporation Eni will commemorate the 25th anniversary of the death of its founder, Enrico Mattei, killed when a company plane crashed in bad weather near Milan on 27 October, 1962.

A Catholic resistance leader in the last stage of the war, Signor Mattei was more than a company chairman. He had a vision of Italy as a world industrial power, secure in its energy supplies through harmonious partnership with the oil producing countries.

After refusing in 1945 an order to economize by winding up the state oil company Agip, Signor Mattei persevered till Eni was established in 1953. He headed it, using sometimes questionable methods, to make it a force in Italy and on the world oil scene till his death.

Enrico Mattei earned the enmity of the international oil companies — the seven sisters as he called them — by breaking the convenient 50-50 arrangement, under which the foreign company with concessions in the Third World took all the decisions and half the profits, while the host country took the other half of profits but no decisions.

In 1956 he made deals with Iran and Egypt whereby concessions were run by 50-50 joint ventures with the host country, and profits were split 50-50 between the joint venture and the host country. In other words, the local people got 75 per cent of the profits and shared on decisions.

The spirit of Signor Mattei waned during the difficult years that followed, when the corporation was administered by managers more familiar with his methods than his ideals. It went through a period of frequent changes at the top, involvement in the shadowy side of Italian politics, and allegations of corruption and scandal.

That, it is hoped, is now all passed. A strong financial

recovery has been brought about by the present chairman, Franco Reviglio, a 52-year-old Piedmontese economics professor who, though not a professional politician, was Minister of Finance from 1979 to 1981.

In 1983, when Signor Reviglio was appointed, group losses were lire 1,449.1 billion (£690 million at the current exchange).

They improved to a loss of lire 64.8 billion in 1984 then turned to a record profit of lire 822.2 billion (£392 million) in 1985, followed by a profit of lire 510 billion last year.

Agip, the hydrocarbons exploration and production subsidiary, similarly reported a 1985 profit of lire 1,089 billion (£518 million), down to lire 400 billion last year.

Events have thus shown that a state corporation can be rescued and brought back to profit despite international difficulties such as falls in the oil price and dollar. These were reflected in decreases in turnover for the Eni group and Agip respectively of 28 and 47.9 per cent last year.

The group now employs 129,300 people in Italy and abroad, active in oil and gas, chemicals and petrochemicals, engineering and plant contracting, mining and minerals, textiles and tourism.

Production of oil and gas is equivalent to 600,000 barrels a day, with reserves of 540.1 million toe (tonnes of oil equivalent). The group has

A \$30 billion investment

always been weak in oil and relatively strong in gas, whose production in Italy is set to rise from 13 billion cubic metres a year now to 16 billion in 1990.

Signor Mattei's dream has become reality, insofar as Italy is a leading industrial power.

Following the Mattei tradition, Signor Reviglio has a vision of Eni and Italy as a lynch pin between the industrialized north and the developing south of the Mediterranean.

At a speech in Istanbul last June, Signor Reviglio launched an ambitious idea



Hi-tech Italian style: a glamorous worker on the assembly line at the Olivetti factory at Ivrea, near Turin

Small is beautiful again

Information technology has now arrived to allow anarchy to function effectively. There is no longer a call for companies operating in similar fields to fuse or buy each other: technology means that individual companies can keep in close and immediate touch while retaining a certain autonomy.

To be small is no longer, in economic terms, unbecoming and the spirit of individual enterprise can remain strong.

Surprisingly, one of the bodies most active in wedding high technology to traditional industries is Enea, the commission for nuclear and alternative energy resources.

The explanation is that Enea, under the chairmanship of Umberto Colombo, has moved out of the purely theoretical field and has become an adviser to industries seeking an application of high technology to help them solve their problems, which mainly concern the reduction in costs in order to remain competitive on world markets.

They are now being advised on how to bring to bear robots, lasers, micro-informatics and new materials on this problem

of costs. The best example is the application of technology to the historic, highly fragmented textile industries around the city of Prato.

This is a classic case because it sums up much of the nature of these traditional industries: there are 15,000 firms involved and the industry is still a thriving one but is increasingly threatened

Refurbishing the economy

by lower-priced products from other countries.

The solution began with plans for energy conservation and then advanced towards the use of various forms of high technology such as computer-aided design systems for fabrics and robots which could be taught to spin and card.

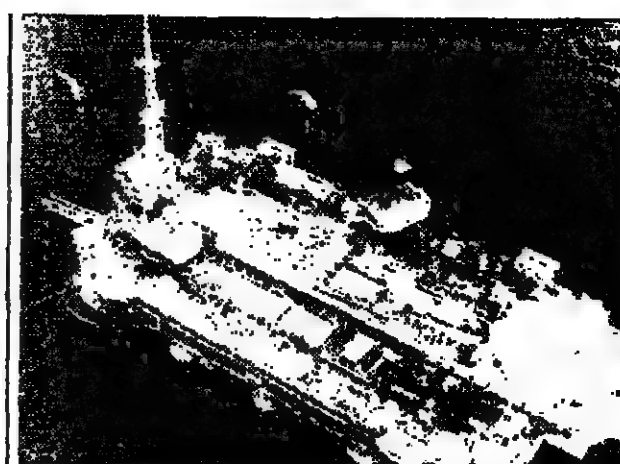
Similar projects are being formulated for the Merano glassmakers, the Como silk industry, where bio-technologies will eventually have their role, chairmakers in Friuli and a far from limited number of traditional industries, which only now are gaining a new

stimulus from the fact that their contribution to the economy is by no means a thing of the past or of industrial folklore.

It could be argued that the refurbishing of traditional industries has become a factor in guaranteeing the lasting value of the Italian economy's present favourable moment.

To take a case somewhere between the family firm and a giant — Pininfarina, the country's leading car designer, is still in family hands but has just passed through a process of transformation because of its contract for not only designing but also building the bodies for General Motors' Cadillac Allante, and airbraking the bodies from Turin to Detroit.

In this case the new technologies had only an indirect part in the project. But certainly Pininfarina will not be the same again after fulfilling this contract. It is more likely, however, that technology will in most cases aid smaller firms to continue their work more profitably within their traditional dimensions. PN



Plumbing new depths: one of the new giant oil platforms

Pipeline profits

A lire 200 billion (£95 million) semi-submersible drilling rig under construction at Fincantieri's Genoa-Sestri yard bears witness to Saipem's faith in the future of the now depressed offshore oil market.

Scarabeo Cinque, with accommodation for 100 men, is designed to drill down to 25,000ft in 2,700ft of water under harsh, sub-Arctic conditions. It is to be delivered in October 1988.

Saipem, one of the jewels in the state owned Eni group's crown, is an oil services and engineering company that gained international renown when it laid for Snamprogetti, another group associate, the Transmed methane pipeline between Tunisia and Sicily.

Besides forging a first tangible link between Europe and Africa, it established a world record by laying down to a water depth of 2,000ft. Eni capitalized on its success with a public offer of Saipem shares, though it has retained control with 63 per cent.

Last year the Saipem group reported consolidated net profit of lire 2.1 billion on revenues of lire 1,545.5 billion (£736 million). Both figures were 6 per cent up on the 1985 levels, despite the reduced level of drilling in the world and the slide in the dollar. But for the latter, results would have been better — it operates in 20 countries and 70 per cent of orders are in US dollars.

Saipem has three main areas of activity: drilling, with a fleet of eight rigs for the offshore side; engineering and construction at sea — it is working on the development of Vega oilfield off Sicily, about to go into production, and on the big Bouri field in

the Libyan offshore; and construction work for the oil and gas industry on land.

Although, as it said in a statement with last year's results, several foreign competitors registered downturns in their operations, Saipem reported increases in activity.

It laid 2,055 kilometres of pipe against 1,226 in 1985, notched up 305,558 metres in drilling wells against 278,983, and installed 83,500 tonnes of structures and equipment against 51,700.

At present, pipelines for oil gas or water are being laid in Iraq, Turkey, Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Austria, Italy, North Yemen, Nigeria and in the British and Indian offshore.

The Nigerian contract, in association with Snamprogetti, is for a 240-mile system to fuel the Egbin power plant near Lagos with gas from Warri in the Niger delta. It indicates how contractors are losing faith in the dollar, as payment is in Swiss francs, deutschmarks and Nigerian naira.

At the end of last year the company had an order book worth lire 1,500 billion. To counter the recession in its traditional market it is increasingly diversifying into public works and contracting, particularly in Italy, and has set up a civil engineering division for this purpose.

Among the contracts obtained in this sector is one to build a monorail urban transport line in Sydney, Australia.

At home, it is participating in a tender to cross the Straits of Messina between Sicily and the mainland not with a bridge but with a submerged floating tunnel. JE

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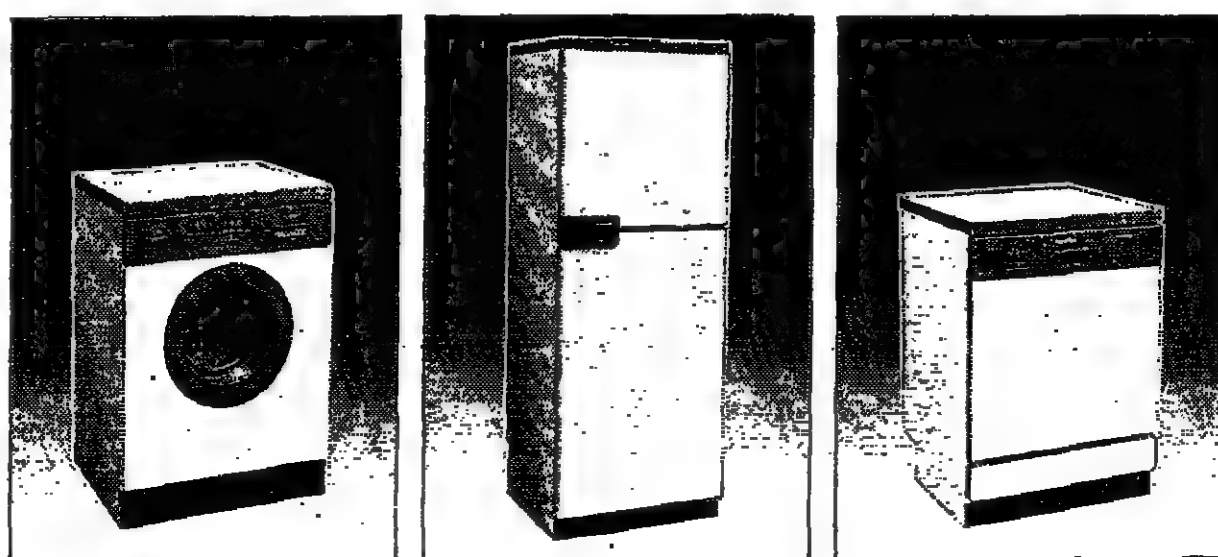
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ITALIAN ENGINEERING
AND TECHNOLOGYArms firms
aim for
new targets

For years, one of the silent strengths of Italian trade has been the little-publicized armaments industry. Italy rated among the top five exporters in the world until last year, when a slump in orders from the usually fertile Middle East market, the surge in Chinese arms sales to Iran and a decline in naval military orders, an Italian specialty, all served to relegate Italy to seventh place.

Nonetheless, Italian producers of military hardware are quickly learning to move their sights to different markets. Since the boom year of 1982 when sales of major weapons systems abroad earned Italy \$349 million, there has been a steady decline to last year's \$196 million.

Now the Middle East market has partially dried up through lack of funds since the drop in oil prices, and Italy's growing political sensitivity in refusing major arms deals with Libya, Syria and Iran.

Emblematic of the rise and fall of the Italian arms trade in the Middle East is the fate of the largest Italian order in recent years — in 1981 the Iraqi government ordered a fleet of 11 battleships, four Lupo-class frigates, six Wadi-class corvettes and one Stromboli-class support ship from the state-run Fincantieri ship

yards of La Spezia to be mounted with several Oto Melara missile systems.

The \$1.1 billion contract was blocked after the delivery of the Stromboli support ship, as the Gulf war enveloped the Iraqi coast to the point that Iraq now has no port left to dock its Italian-made navy.

"The future of the Italian arms business lies in collaboration deals and smaller projects," says Attilio di Giovanni of the external relations department of Oto Melara, Italy's big manufacturer of land, sea and air missile systems and armoured vehicles. "The costs of development are prohibitive for single companies to undertake."

Like other Italian and indeed European military-arms producers, Oto Melara is pin-pointing markets within the Nato sphere and lowering its sights to smaller but produc-

tive sales, such as powerful anti-aircraft missile systems that can be fired from tanks.

Successful sale items over the last few years include a VCC transport vehicle, produced with Fiat — 200 of them were delivered to Saudi Arabia between 1982 and 1985 and the BCI tanks, also produced in conjunction with Fiat, for the Italian army.

The latest Oto Melara development is a new anti-aircraft gun for tank convoy defence, the Otomatic 76 which will be on show at the next Paris exhibition.

"International cooperation is now a compulsory step for European arms producers and particularly for Italy which does not produce a wide range of major weapon systems," says Aaron Karp who monitors conventional arms sales for the Stockholm Peace Research Institute.

Italy's major ventures in this direction are a 10 per cent share in the Anglo-German-Italian Tornado fighter plane, on offer to Saudi Arabia, Oman and Turkey.

Aeritalia, one of the Italian participants in the project, the aircraft manufacturing company which belongs to the state-holding group, Iri Finmeccanica, alone aspires to a \$65 million share in the eventual Saudi order of 72 Tornados. At present the Tornado is on show, with an Italian crew, in Turkey.

Another new and important multinational venture for Italy is the Tonal, a fighter helicopter produced by a jointly owned company partly British (Westland), Dutch (Fokker), Spanish (Cesa) and Italian (Agusta). The Tonal is a further development of the Agusta A129 fighter helicopter and will be produced in various versions suitable for reconnaissance, air combat or anti-tank attack.

Radar and missile systems are the specialty of Selenia, which concluded a contract with Thailand's armed forces this year for an aircraft-defence system. The contract, which includes Aspid missile, is worth about \$24 million and is the first sale abroad of the Italian air force's Peda missile system.

The military sea transport market is the aspiration of the Sicilian Rodriguez group, manufacturer of hydrofoils. Based in Messina, the group pioneered the use of hydro-

foils for civilian and military transport, using Germany's wartime chief naval engineer Frederick Lobey, to develop its first model.

Rodriguez has already sold military hydrofoils to the Indonesian navy. It also produces military motorboats, coast-guard vessels and patrol boats. The group is soon to enter the Milan stock market, the first southern Italian company to do so.

Perhaps most interesting though not the biggest, Italian success in the arms trade is the sale to the US army of over 300,000 Beretta 92F calibre 9 pistols for \$36.4 million, although the sale is still contested by US Congress lobby for the American Colt Company, the contract appears to be safely in Italy's hands.

Janet Stobart



Technology for defence: the white heat of optical fibres, and below, control system research for missiles at the Selenia factory near Rome



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Major sales drive for
two-way helicopters

In a sense, Agusta's "convertiplane" project, due to be ready in the year 2000, is symbolic of the point reached in this company's development, and that of Italy's other current exploits into the space and aviation sectors, writes Peter Nicholls.

The Agusta project is an aircraft with tilt rotors capable, with its rotors in a vertical position, of taking off and landing like a helicopter in the minimum of space. And with its rotors in a horizontal position, it will fly like a normal aircraft.

Its most stimulating feature is that it will require for its fullest use the help of architects and town planners who will have to see that cities are ready to receive it.

The aircraft will allow passengers to travel between neighbouring city centres or connect cities with international airports.

The state-owned Agusta group can trace its history back to the beginnings of aviation in Italy, much as Alfa Romeo, Lancia and Fiat emerged at the beginning of the motor-car era. Its recent history has been commendable in design but debt-ridden.

Last year it made its first profit after a period of deep uncertainty and now, with greater confidence deriving from success and more compelling management, it is showing greater flexibility and initiative in more than one direction.

One of the latest statements from the company announced the sale of helicopters to Japan which is considered the most difficult export market of all, with the possible exception of the US, where it has already

sold 90 of its 109 helicopters. This again amounted to a series of sales boosters because Agusta's earlier helicopter activities were based almost entirely on building Boeing, Sikorsky and Bell models under licence.

Selenia, the group which includes the state's most ambitious efforts in space and aviation electronics, is similarly experiencing an export effort and increased international cooperation marked by a growing confidence. The domestic market is too small to provide profits, so the group's success has had to depend on exports.

More than half of its current

Selenia Spazio is the only company in the country devoted entirely to space projects

production goes abroad. The group's air-traffic-control systems are used in 33 countries, including the US, and 126 postal centres in America use Selenia's address-reading systems. It claims to be among the world's two or three leaders in the study of artificial intelligence, both in its use industrially and in military systems.

Selenia Spazio, one of the group's members, is the only company in Italy devoted entirely to space projects.

One of the group's most striking recent international agreements is the project for collaboration with Marconi Radar Systems in Britain and Thomson CSF in France on a development programme

aimed at providing a new generation multi-function phased-array radar to meet the needs of their respective navies and for use in the Nato frigate replacement programme for the 1990s.

This system is seen to represent the challenge of the European electronic industry in the field of advanced defence equipment.

The activities of the group cover seven fields: defence systems, large civil systems, factory automation, space and telecommunications, process control and biomedical products. But international cooperation brings its drawbacks.

According to Raffello Teti, Agusta's chairman, the partnerships send up cost by about 30 per cent but offer the advantage to be derived from sharing technological information, which is an inevitable part of collaboration.

Signor Teti adds that the advances made in the last few years by Agusta have increased the difficulties of cooperation with American companies, which lately have seen Agusta as a rival rather than a purchaser of US licences.

Another disadvantage arises when a partner decides to pull out of the agreement. This is what is happening with the threat of British withdrawal from the consortium of companies from France, Germany, Holland as well as Italy to build the NH-90 military helicopter.

Signor Teti is trying to prevent UK withdrawal by offering a reduced British participation but more work for Westland if the British decide to use Agusta's Mangusta anti-tank helicopter.

Lowering sights
to smaller sales

yards of La Spezia to be mounted with several Oto Melara missile systems.

The \$1.1 billion contract was blocked after the delivery of the Stromboli support ship, as the Gulf war enveloped the Iraqi coast to the point that Iraq now has no port left to dock its Italian-made navy.

"The future of the Italian arms business lies in collaboration deals and smaller projects," says Attilio di Giovanni of the external relations department of Oto Melara, Italy's big manufacturer of land, sea and air missile systems and armoured vehicles. "The costs of development are prohibitive for single companies to undertake."

Like other Italian and indeed European military-arms producers, Oto Melara is pin-pointing markets within the Nato sphere and lowering its sights to smaller but produc-

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High-tech wonders

Italy comes below the average in comparisons of how much is spent in the industrialized world on high-technology research and development, but major companies are often well-ahead in their own fields. Examples, in their different ways, are provided by the state-owned Ansaldo and in the private sector by Pirelli.

Ansaldo, a leading maker of superconducting magnets, sees immense possibilities in the breakthrough now on the horizon for the whole superconductor sector. If the practical applications are mostly for the future, Pirelli on the other hand is beginning to

reap the benefits from a sector in which it is strong: optical fibres. Sergio Barabeschi, Ansaldo's deputy director in charge of R & D, says the scientific community is very excited over superconductor research made in recent months — and still going on — in Europe, the US and Japan. It will, he thinks, reshape the way electricity is produced. Ansaldo intends to remain in the lead. The breakthrough, according to Signor Barabeschi, began at an IBM research laboratory in Switzerland. For years it has been known that if certain materials could be cooled to near absolute zero — minus 459 Fahrenheit, when all movement in atoms ceases — they become superconductive, offering no resistance to electricity.

However, to approach anywhere near that temperature, it was necessary to cool with liquid helium, too expensive for industrial use.

Signor Barabeschi speaks in terms of the Kelvin scale used by scientists. Zero Kelvin is the absolute zero, and till recently it was possible to get down to about three to five Kelvin. But the Swiss discovery, that achieved superconductivity at 30 Kelvin, set off a chain reaction among researchers, until a laboratory in Houston, Texas, came up in February with a stable compound superconductive at 98 Kelvin (minus 284 Fahrenheit).

These discoveries are being

made by experimenting with compounds mixing varieties of rare oxides. The advantage is that they can be cooled to this temperature range, using liquid nitrogen, which is much cheaper.

Among possible practical applications Signor Barabeschi cites levitating trains — as fast as aeroplanes, suspended in the air by a magnetic field — or the long-distance transmission of electricity, say between Italy and Britain, without power losses due to resistance.

Superconductors may bring super-fast, enormously powerful desk computers or a new

generation of medical scanners giving much sharper images of the body. For the scientists, superconducting magnets may "bottle" plasma at sun temperature and provide a key to nuclear fusion. For the military, the capability of enemy missile detection devices may be enhanced for the "Star Wars" programme in outer space, where the temperature is already cool enough.

Ansaldo describes itself as the leading European industrial company supplying large magnets for fusion experiments and physics research. Working in close collaboration with the Italian National Institute of Nuclear Physics, it has provided superconducting magnets to research bodies in Switzerland, France and West Germany.

Ansaldo has also told the US government that it would like to supply some magnets for its big SSC (superconducting super collider) project.

For telecommunications,

the discovery and introduction of optical fibres has been as exciting and challenging as the prospects of superconductors for electro-physics.

Gabriele Maschio, chief engineer of the cable sector of the Pirelli cable and tyre group, says Pirelli started selling optical-fibre cables back in 1975.

In 1982 optical cables still accounted for only one per cent of all cable sales for telecommunications, rising to about 2 per cent in 1983 and 5 per cent in 1984.

Then the take-off came — 18 per cent in 1985, 25 per cent in 1986 (worth about \$50 million) and probability 30 per cent this year. After this, Signor Maschio foresees a period of consolidation, as a few years of experiments will be needed before a second phase of explosive growth, bringing optical cables to the level of the domestic consumer.

The optical fibre is like a very long transparent hair, along the inside of which the light moves through a series of total reflections. Such fibres became a commercial proposition after the advent of the laser in the 1960s, followed by the invention of the light-emitting diode or LED, less costly than the laser.

The fibres are banded together, with suitable protection, into an optical cable.

Signor Maschio estimates the total world market last year as two million fibre kilometres, of which the US alone accounted for 1.2 million. The other main areas are western Europe and Japan.

Pirelli has production and research facilities in all these except Japan.

It was late in the US, where it opened an optical-cables factory last year. In Europe the firm has plants in Italy, Britain, France and Spain.

An interesting new frontier is that of submarine optical cables. The Italian mainland was linked with Sicily last year, and is being linked this year with Elba and Sardinia.

Signor Maschio sees exciting prospects, particularly in the Mediterranean.

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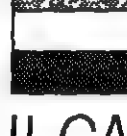
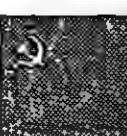

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FIAT

THE ARTS

Exotic snacks

Aliens might well feel at home if the first television programme they encountered was Channel 4's late-night arts show *Alter Image*. Here there were brilliantly coloured holograms produced by splitting light into images of fire and water, followed by the manic performance art of Ralf Ralf, a duo whose set piece, *Summit Psychology*, ended in the freeze of a nuclear winter.

There was too some haunting Mongolian pipe music, accompanied by what approximated to a Mongolian pop video, and the Lumiere theatre

TELEVISION

company with skins painted into fagsaws of brown and white. I would hesitate to say what message that carried, but the absence of a presenter or a panel of critics allowed one to regard these curious items as an exotic hors-d'oeuvre without needing to make too much of a meal out of each piece.

It was a welcome retreat from the more pedestrian matters of the day such as those which Channel 4's third series of *Moneyspinner* was back on the road to deal with — this time in the unlikely financial centre of Harrogate. Luckily some people are prepared to take on the tedious problems which most of us spend much of our time trying to avoid thinking about.

Moneyspinner explored its uninspiring questions in an articulate and unpatronizing manner, making a world which often appears only comprehensible to men in grey suits perfectly clear to one and all — although the graphics employed in this task would have been improved with more imagination. It was interesting to see how the problems raised and solutions offered now work from the premise that everybody is likely to be in luck, and that the way to deal with money is to learn how best to juggle your debts.

Alexandra Shulman

Simply theatrical charm

David Robinson meets the French director Alain Resnais, whose film *Melo*, opening in London this week, is an altogether new departure...

In *Melo*, which opens at the Renouir on Friday, Alain Resnais for the first time takes a subject from the theatre. The choice of work is particularly surprising since not only is its playwright today totally eclipsed by fashion but — at a time when it was still in vogue — the play was previously adapted five times for the screen.

First performed in Paris in 1929, *Melo* is by Henry Bernstein (1876-1953), who enjoyed enormous celebrity throughout the first half of the century. Ostensibly, Bernstein now belongs to a forgotten era of boulevard theatre. The characters in his complex intrigues represent an extinct class of the early-century bourgeoisie — rich, elegant, materialistic, unscrupulous, sensual, brutal and greedy.

The story of an erotic triangle that leads to murder and suicide, *Melo* was first filmed in both French and German versions by the German director Paul Czinner in 1932. Bernstein unsuccessfully brought an action against the director for falsifying his work; and in 1937 Czinner remade it in England as *Dreaming Lips*. Both the German and English versions starred Czinner's wife Elisabeth Bergner. Czinner was involved in yet another German remake in 1951. In 1934 there was an Italian version, *Melo dramma*.

"Since his death Bernstein has been totally neglected — either forgotten or despised," says Resnais. "He represents a kind of bourgeois theatre which is automatically dismissed as bad theatre. Actually he fascinates me for his language, his occasional scenes, the neuroses of his characters."

"I was very interested just recently to read the English reviews of Lindsay Anderson's Old Vic production of Philip Barry's *Holiday*, which was written the year before *Melo*. The critics reacted just as French critics do to Bernstein. They complained that Barry's characters can't be interesting because they are rich. They should remember that Racine wrote about



"I cannot imagine any other actors in Paris who could have done the film": Resnais on the set with Sabine Azéma

kings and princes. The point is, of course, that he was really writing about human beings and sentiments; and so were Bernstein and Barry.

Resnais, director of *Hiroshima mon amour*, *Last Year at Marienbad* and *Provence*, explains: "I have always made films by chance. In this case it happened because a project I prepared with the Czech writer Milan Kundera turned out to be more costly than the 10 million francs we anticipated. When I told Fanny Ardant, who was to have played in the film, that we might have to wait a year or more, she proposed that I should fill the time by directing a play. She suggested Bernstein, being so unknown, he would look like something quite new. I liked the idea. I think Bernstein is a much more complex author than people acknowledge; and *Melo* is linked with memories of my adolescence. As a boy I was not allowed to see it, either on stage or in the cinema — it was too 'immoral'."

"I soon discovered how difficult it was to get the actors I wanted all

together for a theatrical production. So the idea came to do it as a film, and we quickly found a producer. It was a new experience — I had never adapted a play before. Mostly I have used very complex structures in my films, playing about with place and time. Here it was amusing to adapt a text of very clear and simple structure, allowing the play of emotion between the characters to work directly upon the audience."

Resnais says he is not at all worried about making a film that is "theatrical". "In fact I am sometimes criticized for the 'theatricality' of my style; but I never intend to work in a 'natural' way. The theatre has a particular language and a particular way of playing, and I enjoy films in which I rediscover these things. I wanted to re-create the joy of the theatre — the sort of excitement I remembered from seeing Sacha Guitry on the stage."

"There were economic reasons too. We were able to finance the film

because it was simple. If we had wanted a lot of locations, and to shoot for a much longer period, we would have found it difficult. As it was we rehearsed for 20 days and shot for 20 days."

Resnais worked with the same quartet of actors as in his previous film, *L'Amour à mort* — Fanny Ardant, Pierre Arditi, Sabine Azéma and André Dussollier. "I gave Dussollier a big challenge with a monologue of more than seven minutes which he does in a single take. It is like recording music. A continuous performance, even with imperfections, is much more moving than a recording in which every imperfection has been subsequently corrected."

"I cannot imagine any other actors in Paris who could have done the film. If any one of them had been unavailable, I would have abandoned it altogether. I would certainly be willing to do another quartet with them. But I would be nervous about another adaptation from the theatre. I hate to repeat myself."

ROCK

Tina Turner
Scottish Exhibition
Centre, Glasgow

The best moment came very near the end when, having divested herself of the little black skirt and then the red leather micro-dress, Tina Turner returned in simple blue jeans and a white T-shirt and, joined by Robert Cray on guitar, sang a slow gospel blues, Sam Cooke's "A Change Is Gonna Come". Cray, who had earlier delivered a brisk set of towering authority with his own band, played twitchy scatters of blues phrases as Turner applied her awe-inspiring vocal prowess to singing an old-style R & B spiritual, and for an instant one could see clear up to the heavens.

In the two years since she last appeared in Britain, Turner has seen sales of *Private Dancer* top the 10 million mark, appeared with Mick Jagger in a spectacular finale to Live Aid and released *Break Every Rule*, an album that pushed her boat squarely into the calm waters of the rock mainstream. Additionally, publication of the autobiography *I, Tina* confirmed her life as public property, and this show reflected the broad and circumscribed attraction that she has now become.

Following the video to

"Afterglow", relayed on a huge screen, the curtain opened to reveal her expert eight-piece band arranged on the multi-level stage, and Turner stomping and strutting in her curiously tomboyish way through "What You Get is What You See". The video screen traced the activities of the performers with sophisticated cutting and mixing techniques, while introducing sleek female images during "Girls", snatches of *Mad Max* during "We Don't Need Another Hero" and even some archive footage of Ike and the Ikeettes during "Overnight Sensation".

The need for predictability and the cumbersome musical production values that necessarily govern an operation of this scale seemed not to affect the sheer vitality and bonhomie with which she sang, and the show built to an ineluctable climax with "What's Love Got To Do With It", "Let's Stay Together", "Proud Mary" and "It's Only Love", a duet with John Miles making an excellent job of the Bryan Adams part.

One could wish that her recent material was not so determinedly middle-of-the-road and that she did not so rely on that great thumping stadium rock beat; but, even before Cray came out initially, to duet on "In the Midnight Hour", her dynamic vocal magnetism and great hollering voice had already more than carried the day.

David Sinclair

CONCERT

Julian Jacobson
Elizabeth Hall

Ligeti has spoken recently of the compacted, bent line through time that links him directly with Debussy and the early Renaissance, and so there was good reason for Julian Jacobson to programme his first book of *Etudes* alongside Debussy's second volume of *Préludes*, although in the absence of any piano music by Ciconia we had to make do with Schubert.

The *Etudes*, which were being heard in this country for the first time, share with Debussy's pieces a feeling that the music hovers between poetic image and pure sonic design. Or the analogy might be with computer graphics: there are times when the *perpetuum mobile* (a constant feature of all six studies) will seem like a grid of coloured squares, but then, sometimes quite suddenly, one will begin to hear the music in terms of larger patterns, melodic lines, harmonic tendencies and arcane canons.

In terms of Ligeti's personal history, there is a direct

continuation here from the piano duo *Monument-Self-portrait-Requiem*, with many of the same techniques and textures, the same requirement that the player act like a wild machine and, I suspect, the same recycling from one piece to another of identical elements in different processes of crystallization. But the intensiveness of the poly-rhythmic impetus is more pronounced, and leads in the final piece to such things as a canon of down-dragging chromatic scales where the three voices have speeds in the ratio 7:5:4:3:2:1.

The fourth and fifth pieces, "Fanfares" and "Arc-en-ciel", seem to form a pair, in that both have a Weberian sense of windows opening and closing, except that now the windows are seen through magic mirrors that distort and complicate the images; there is also, as the titles suggest, a difference of tone between the emphatic motifs of the first piece and the aerial brightness of the second. Equally distinct are the first three studies: a brutal dislocation of hands, a dissolve of motifs in ripples of filth and a presto in frenzied irregular iteration. Mr Jacobson brought to them all fanatic precision, energy and determination.

Paul Griffiths

LONDON DEBUTS

There can be no denying that the Ridge Quartet from the United States made an impact as a hugely competent ensemble, but for my taste they place virtuosity on too high a plain. Whether it was Schubert, Bartók or Mendelssohn, they applied the same tightly controlled sonority, with a frenetically expressive and all-pervasive vibrato that effectively neutered the inner message of the music. In Bartók's Second Quartet there were ear-catching *sforzatos* in nearly every phrase that quickly became a cliché.

The group perhaps aims to produce too big a sound and they rely on a misplaced

concept of effective quartet balance: neither cellist nor violist ever really surfaced above the constant flow of the overall sound.

James Methuen-Campbell

William Phenixer, from California, has spent much time researching the piano music of Ravel and Debussy, and this was the liveliest part of his programme. But, in three *Images* and *Le Tombeau de Couperin*, his sheer technical dexterity was dimmed by a pedestrian approach to harmony and phrasing.

Bach's Chromatic Fantasia and Fugue and Brahms's Handel Variations emanated fluently; but a cavalier rhythmic sense, clumsy ornamentation and a strength of arm power were not matched by any real musical conviction.

Hilary Finch

Cry of anguish in captivity

When we first see Julie she has already packed her bag and is only waiting to tell Steven she is leaving him. He lurches in from his garage job, late and too drunk to get the message. So she delays her departure for another day, putting up with the racket outside, the solitude and neglect; and even accepting a gift of sex-shop lingerie and two garden gnomes when Steven resurfaces after an unscheduled London weekend for the Rugby League Cup.

Worse is in store when Steven's back-street bike repair business ends in bankruptcy, and he takes out his grievances on the wife who promptly has a miscarriage. He beats her up again when she brings up the idea of

THEATRE

Relevo
Soho Poly

marriage guidance; after which it is back to the bottle and a terminal collapse in his armchair, with Julie barricaded into the council house living-room, defying the police to deprive her of the corpse. The suitcase is still standing by the front door.

David Spencer's play, the winner of this year's Verity Bargate Award, is written with a sledgehammer. If you choose to resist it through mockery, it offers an ample

collection of northern working-class clichés, from chip dinners and pale ale to Steven's dream of a holiday in Memphis at the Presley shrine. It is also true that you can see the disasters coming, and that the couple never have a chance.

The crucial question, though, is whether Mr Spencer has deliberately propelled them down this black hole, or whether it arises inescapably from their circumstances. The answer comes in the opening sound of children playing a street game (from which the play takes its title) in which one team captures the other. Julie and Steven are two kids who discover they have captured each other for life; and what

follows is a nightmarishly accelerated study of the agonies of enforced cohabitation.

Both are likeable innocents, reeling with amazement at the damage they inflict on one another; aggrieved that their apologies do not make things better; and — to the sound of counting games from the street — ageing to scarred old pugs. To the extent that Julie loves and Steven does not, it is clear where the rot began; but beyond that, Mr Spencer is entirely even-handed in his treatment of both characters. The play may be a cry of pain; it is certainly no act of cold-blooded manipulation.

Sue Dunderdale's production faithfully piles black on black, even to the extent of getting laughs out of lines like "Shall we go for a walk?". What makes it bearable are the performances of Mary Jo Randle and Jeff Rawle, who show the process of a girl turning into a crazed harridan and a boy into a brutal drunk without passing judgement on them.

Irving Wardle



Steaming in the kitchen: Mary Jo Randle with Jeff Rawle

Bartholomew Fair
Regent's Park

In a succession of penetrable disguises, it is a baffling one. Nor does Peter Bayliss, clad finally in voluminous scarlet, make his purposes clearer by using a range of *Goon Show* voices. He can certainly be pretty funny, usually when breaking away from the text or finding in it some unexpected hint, like the prettiness of young Master Ezekiel's hair.

The focus of the comedy is naive but enthusiastic Bartholomew Cokes, and a beam-

ing, jumping performance by Christopher Biggins holds the centre of the play together. Peggy Mount finds the expected comedy in Ursula the pig-woman but no more. A scene-stealing performance by Christopher Ryan as a diminutive monomaniac, and a charming ballad (too charming, where everyone dons red noses, about complete the tally of credits. If Jonson can be convincingly staged today a method has yet to be found.

Jeremy Kingston

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The promised sideshows around the periphery of the theatre turn out to be little more than a gentle juggler and a rabbit in its run; nor has the play itself long advanced before it comes clear this will also prove a disappointment.

Ben Jonson's works have many determined advocates who praise his comic genius, lust for language and all-embracing vision of life. Here his image is of the fairground as the world in miniature, a place where cheats thrive, but jolly wit, so that the gullible end up as satisfied as those who gull them.

It is a world threatened by hypocritical puritans, moralists and enforcers of the law who are variously discomfited in the course of a day's exploration of the fair. Whatever you think of this as a thorough portrayal of society, a director possessed of an eye for myriad detail, while retaining a clear overview, could come up with a version that persuaded you that the fair is jolly if nothing else is.

Peter Barnes has been keen on Jonson for years and here directs his own edited text. Hampered by the wide, deep stage, the company shrink into small isolated groups — and this in spite of a cast of 28 — who run or hobble into view, lark about as necessary, and retire. If Barnes had made them turn their backs and get to work gulling others a sense of the bustle of the fair might have been sustained.

Important parts of the story appear to have vanished. The figure of Justice Overdo, wandering through the crowd

Silent role for an actress

It may seem strange, says Susan Hampshire, for a woman who has fought to have children to be concerned with population control. Stranger still, as Libby Purves finds, to meet a star who enjoys being called a social worker

When she is in the slums of Chittagong, says Susan Hampshire, they call her a social worker. The famous actress, who is just one of the project workers. Oh, it's a really nice feeling.

It must be, Susan Hampshire has well and truly served her time as an icon of western showbiz. She became the nation's darling as Fleur Forsythe, in Galsworthy's great soap opera, and Lady Glenora Palliser in Trollope's. Off the screen, her marriage to a French film director, her son's birth and daughter's death, her painful divorce and late remarriage to the "millionaire" Greek impresario Eddie Kuhnke, have all been chronicled, in the usual ramshackle way, in a hundred gossip columns.

Now 45, she is gracefully philosophical about it all, and even advances the theory that it is quite beneficial to be wildly and embarrassingly misreported in your personal life, because at least that keeps the essential truths of it private.

However, after two decades of living in an intermittent neon glare of publicity, it is understandable that she likes being called a social worker. "When I go on field trips to Bangladesh, I'm just another person who works for the charity. They forget I'm an actress."

Perhaps for that reason, she has kept this side of her life curiously hidden. Most people know about Susan Hampshire's campaigning work for dyslexia. But not many know that for more than a decade she has been working, sometimes full-time, for the charity Population Concern. She visits particular projects, stays a while, then comes home and tours schools lecturing,

often with David Bellamy, on population and conservation. At the moment, her preoccupation is with the slums of Chittagong, in Bangladesh, where a directly funded project is providing "schooling, hygiene, health programmes, inoculations, rehydration tablets — and, of course, family planning for those who want it. It is important to understand that Population Concern is not there to stop anyone having babies if they want them. It's about supporting family life."

The time and effort and emotional energy she puts into it are startling. This is no routine matter of an actress lending brief lustre to a fund-raising fête, or "standing up in a ball-dress and diamonds, making a plea"; it has become a central part of her life.

In fact, sitting in her pretty Fulham drawing room she was initially uneasy, and said that it was difficult to talk to a journalist about it all. But she did, awkwardly at first and then with force and passion. Photographs littered the table, of families camped around tin shanties, small bright faces lovingly identified one by one. "Now this little girl, I bought her a flannel and soap, and taught her how to wash her face. I told her that she'd feel better, that you have to believe in yourself, wash your face, go to school."

She talked on, absorbed, about the Muslim women cast off by a triple "I" divorce then, forced on to the streets, their children starving. She talked of blind, rickety babies, of bamboo shacks flooded with disease-laden monsoon water; but also of individual children, friendly moments, a particular beautiful pond where grape hyacinths are vivid on the bank and rice grows from untreated effluent. She must be an engaging school lecturer.



Quiet conscience: Susan Hampshire working for charity at home in London, and in Bangladesh

She returns from these visits in a curious state, familiar to many field workers in the Third World. "I think my husband, Eddie, worries about me. He's a very generous and philanthropic man, but world population problems aren't his special thing. Any more than dyslexia is. He just sees me come back completely disorientated. I think about Bangladesh, and I can't decide whether it is all so enormous and hopeless that nothing can help; or whether you just have to think positively, and try."

It is not a new problem to her. Even in the early Sixties, as a golden-haired and glamorous young actress, she was troubled enough about the monstrous unfairness of the world to travel out alone to Gabon to Albert Schweitzer's village hospital. "I knew I had to see him, and he was an old man and might die soon. I took my courage and went. I really thought I would stay and work. He was a nurse there. But I understood that I wasn't ready."

So she came home, but all through the years of her first marriage, her flowering career, her

The problem is about having the children you want

two children's births (her baby Victoria died after a day) and her series of grievous miscarriages, the nagging social conscience remained.

She is married to a wealthy man and can be, as she puts it, "kept" for the first time in her life; but she is still working, and a West End play is planned which she can't bear even to talk about. In case it doesn't happen, "I didn't want to do theatre for the first years of this marriage: Eddie was marrying for the first time, at 48, so I didn't think he should have a wife away every single night."

She displays, over such family feelings, a steely sense of priorities. Years ago she passionately pro-

tested her small son's relationship with his father by conducting a determinedly friendly divorce with her erring husband, which must have cost her pride not a little.

She is, it must be said, equally tender about the feelings of the women of Bangladesh. "They do believe that children are sent by God, and God will look after them. I know that. And it may seem strange that someone like me who has fought to have more children, and failed, should be involved with population control. But it is absolutely the same thing. People with no children, people with nine children in a row that they didn't want to have, have the same problem. The problem is about having the children you want. Every child should be wanted."

She looked at the time, grew worried that I might not find a taxi, and insisted on getting out her car and driving me to my next appointment. A remarkably, almost unsettlingly kind woman: nothing like Fleur Forsythe, after all.

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BRIEFLY

A round-up of news, views and information

Business of dreams

Not everyone can dream up a moneyspinner like the Body Shop, but any woman keen to set up a business or needing the impetus to become self-employed will be able to hear pearls of wisdom from Anita Roddick (and other dynamic entrepreneurs) at Women In Enterprise's Women Mean Business conference, on June 16, at Kensington Town Hall. For £10 (including coffee and tea, but not lunch), delegates attend the morning conference and an afternoon session of their choice, when experts will be on hand almost one-to-one to advise on going into business, growing a business (covering the legal, tax and leadership side), developing a company through marketing and PR, and expanding (finding ways of raising capital). To apply, contact Women In Enterprise, 26 Bond Street, Wakefield, W1 2QP (0924 361789).

Be fair to hair

Our skin may be kept moist with high protection factor sun creams, but now we learn that our hair is at risk, too. For those too chic to consider swimming caps or scarves, L'Oréal's Keratase range now includes Solaire Gel Screen and Invisible Spray Screen (which both contain filters to prevent drying), and an Enriching Oil to repair the sun's ravages. They all cost £3.25, from L'Oréal salons nationwide — you can find your nearest by calling 01-937 5454, extension 421.

Perfect parties

It is not just June brides who will find inspiration in the 370 ultra-glossy pages of American television star and professional caterer Martha Stewart's romantic *Weddings* coffee table book. Documenting the nuptials of a dozen upper-crust American brides from small family affairs to a guest list of hundreds, in exquisite full colour, there are highly original ideas for menus, decorations, flowers and table settings to inspire any party-giver, not simply the bride's mother. Published by Sidgwick & Jackson, the only set-back is a £35 price tag, but compared to the complete wedding bill, that is probably small beer.

Dame for a laugh

"Arthur Marshall," said Victoria Wood, when asked who made her laugh. "Victoria Wood," said the majority of female comedians interviewed in Morvena Banks and Amanda Swift's *The Joke's on Us* (to be published on June 11 by Pandora Press, £5.95). Described by Sue Townsend as a "deadly serious funny book", it is the first study of witty British women — from Vesta Tilley (a male impersonator) and Marie Lloyd (a notorious ad-libber) to French and Saunders. Its 294 pages give the lie to the BBC Light Entertainment producer who said, "Women in comedy? That will be a very short book."

Quote me...



"Do women slave over a sink unless they want to? Of course not. Even in France, with our great respect for food, there are now short cuts which are not regarded, as they once would have been, as gastronomic crimes: for instance, wash the salad!" Françoise Giroud, France's first Minister for Women

Women's words

When is a housewife not a housewife? When she is a member of the National Housewives Register. So many of the 23,000 members grumbled about the kitchen sink connotations of the name that at an historic celebration this morning it is to be changed to the National Women's Register. In the hope of broadening the group's appeal still further. Chosen in a national ballot (winning over Women's Link and Women's Forum), members — who meet in each others' homes to discuss issues like alternative medicine and world peace — were initially invited to offer suggestions. Women of the World (WOW) got the thumbs down, as did the Cabbage Club, "because if there's anything worse than being thought of as a domestic drudge, it's being a vegetable!" For more information, contact the NWR at 245 Warwick Road, Solihull, West Midlands B92 7AH (021 706 1101).

Josephine Fairley

The fee-paying facts of life

Independent schools are taking widely differing approaches to sex, drug and alcohol education

If a master or mistress is embarrassed talking about any aspect of sex education, "then they shouldn't do it", advises Dr Elizabeth Pryce-Jones, secretary of the Medical Officers of Schools Association.

Reports that an Eton housemaster issued new boys (average age 13) with a book that gives details of sexual techniques (much to the distress of at least one parent) raised the question of the place of sex education at independent schools.

Heads, educationalists and parents are turning their attention to the matter of how best to cover the issues involved in giving sex education to pupils



from the age of 8 to 18, and how best to deal with other ills of our times — drugs and alcohol.

A report this week from the Royal College of Psychiatrists that half of all accidental deaths in teenagers over 15 are caused by alcohol suggests that the young need further education on the dangers of drinking. Many day schools, and some highly academic schools, believe this kind of education is a job for parents.

But parents are often at a loss and many would like to shirk discussions. Susanna Johnston, whose daughter Rosie ends her jail sentence this week, for supplying heroin, is reported as saying that she never thought to talk to her daughter about drugs.

Within schools is it a job for chaplains, monks or nuns, school doctors, biology teachers, tutors, housemasters or housemistresses?

The Independent Joint Schools Council has endorsed the DES general advice and guidelines to teachers that any sex education given in a school "encourages due regard to moral consideration and the value of family life". But sex education varies greatly from school to school.

At Bryanston (co-ed, 13-18) a general humanities course starts at the bottom of the school. "Before they're practising — if, and when," says the headmaster, Tom Wheare.

At Shiplake College (boys 13-18) the chaplain, the Rev David Dale gives a four-week course for each year group on different aspects of relationships; at fifth form level he shares the course with a female doctor (wife of a member of staff, who works in public health care) who discusses the female role. Discussions to small groups on relationships begin at Canford (boys 13-18, girls in the sixth forms) in the upper sixth. Is it too late, wonders headmaster Martin Marriott? "But by the first year sixth-form girls have only just arrived, and it's important they're confident for the discussion groups."

Sister Jean Sinclair, head of St Leonard's Mayfield (Roman Catholic, girls 13-18), thinks it best "when discussions arise naturally — and informally. It's most valuable when the girls are ready. We

spend time talking of family values, of general love and affection, as part of the religious education programme". At St Swithun's (girls 13-18) the school doctor (female) talks to 11-year-olds about hygiene and health, and personal relationships are threaded through religious education lessons.

At Clifton College (boys 13-18, though from September co-ed) the chaplain and biology master run a joint course for the top of the school on medical ethics, "literally from birth to death", and engineer discussions on emotional and moral choices. Alwyn's (co-ed day, 13-18), has "nothing structured". Though the chaplain may well touch on moral and psychological issues, by and large it is left to parents.

Under Professor Richard Whitfield, reader in advanced studies at Gloucestershire College of Arts and Technology, 17 schools are currently taking part in a project designed to provide a model for education in these subjects. Over three years Bedford, Christ's Hospital, Dame Allen's, Newcastle, Fettes, Gordonstoun, Forest, King Alfred's, London, Edward VI Southampton, The Mount, Tonbridge, Woodhouse Grove, Wellington, Shiplake, Roedean, Lancing, Manchester Grammar, and St Swithun's will evaluate their various teaching methods with the intention of putting together material useful for other schools.

Last week the Medical Officers of Schools Association arranged a seminar for teachers on how to talk to school children on Aids. Next month the Girls Schools Association is running a study day on Aids and drug abuse for members. Many schools call in the local drug squads to give talks. At Shiplake, an ex-heroin addict old boy comes to talk to the school. "It leaves the boys shattered," according to a master.

Some schools invite Alcoholics Anonymous in to give talks but alcohol abuse is probably the most difficult of all to tackle, according to many heads, because drinking is socially accepted and "so many parents say, 'What problem, what danger?'"

Sarah Drummond
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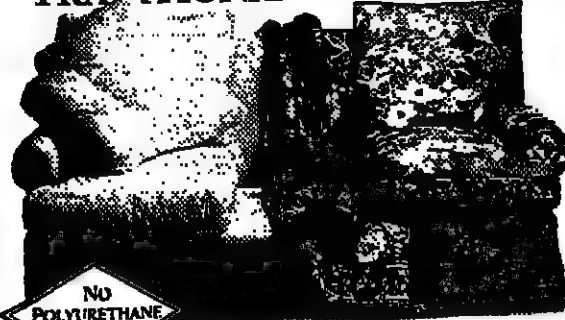
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Gentle formality for the real Porterhouse Blue



Mr George Hales, head porter of Trinity College, Cambridge, who has spent 26 years upholding the institution's traditions (Photograph: John Rogers).

Skullion, head porter of Porterhouse College, Cambridge, had a mind "protected by the ritual and the artefacts of habit". For him, change could only be for the worse. He would cheat the examination system to obtain degrees for his rich but thick undergraduates. And, above all, he knew his place: crawling to the upper classes.

Happily, Skullion existed only in the mind of Tom Sharpe, whose novel, *Porterhouse Blue*, is being televised in four parts, adapted by Malcolm Bradbury, starting tonight at 10.05pm on Channel 4.

The book was published in 1974, when change had just begun to erupt along the banks of the Cam. King's was admitting girls, gate hours were being relaxed, a seven-year battle between the hearties and the hippies

was slowly being won by the new force of liberalization and the skinheads seemed to have lost their desire to beat up "grade" on Parker's Piece.

In 1987, the remnants of Skullionism have all but vanished. George Hales, head porter of Trinity, has been a porter since 1961 and, since the death of Bob Fuller at St John's, has become the longest serving porter in Cambridge. He describes himself as a conservative but, by the standards of Skullion, he is a punk.

True enough, Mr Hales retains many of the old standards — he insists that Trinity's 800 undergraduates address him and his staff of 16 porters as "Mister" rather than by their first names. He and his deputy wear black jackets and pinstripe

trousers, while the other porters wear grey suits. All wear bowlers. Every night, Mr Hales or his deputy puts on a top hat and tails to admit the fellows into hall for dinner, and ensures no interruption during Grace. But, as far as tradition goes, that is about it.

"When I started, in 1961", Mr Hales says, "the gates were locked at 10 and undergraduates were fined twopenny if they came in after that and a shilling after 11. Now the gates close at 12 and guests can stay until two."

Pranks from the past include a sudden outbreak of flashing lights all over Great Court. Porters rushed out to find out what was wrong. It turned out to be a diversionary tactic while students filled Nerlie Court with furniture. Another time, a mass

of white rabbits was released. Such stuff raises no more than a tolerant smile from Mr Hales: "We only really try to find people who cause damage. We get tonnes breaking windows and so on. Nowadays, lawns are getting to be a bigger problem."

Mr Hales is now 64 and retires next year in spite of protests from the college. He came to the job from bus driving and was trained by the legendary Mr Prior, porter at Trinity for 40 years.

And, curiously, it is the students who now seem to have had an attack of Skullionism. Mr Hales has noted a new conservatism — some students even want to restore the habit of wearing gowns in hall.

Some traditions, however, seem to have gone forever. Scarcely any

students think to tip the porters at the end of the academic year — though this is not so serious now that the Trinity team have negotiated better pay. Mr Hales started at £11 a week.

Skullion would have hated it all. He might have admired the member of Mr Hales's team who rugby tackled an undergraduate in Great Court, and the porters who got into a fist fight with townies during a staff party. But, really, everything has changed. Mr Hales does not expect to end his days as Master of Trinity, as Skullion did at Porterhouse. As the Dean said of Mr Hales's fictional counterpart: "He may not have been born with a silver spoon in his mouth, but by God he's going to die with one."

Bryan Appleyard

Campaign sketch

Sabre toothed cod bites Billy's boy

Together on the same platform, Ian Paisley and Jim Molyneux resemble a grotesque music hall double act.

Mr Paisley looks like a large fish, a sabre toothed cod, perhaps, and next to him Mr Molyneux, petit, pursed-lipped and with the faintest suspicion of mascara about his eyes, is the timid but determined wife from a novel by Trollope.

Mr Paisley talks like a particularly wrathful God. "We must right the great wrong that has been done to Ulster", he bellows, his voice hinting at the mixture of hurt and threat that occurs when a beast is wounded.

Mr Molyneux, on the other hand, talks like a tired machine. Even when he speaks of British Ministers who would turn their own grandmothers into soup, he does so in the tone of one learning English from an ancient text.

At yesterday's press conference, Mr Paisley brandished a letter on Downing Street writing paper from Denis Thatcher to an acquaintance of Mr Paisley who was lumbered with the loaded name of Mrs Ireland.

"I think that it reveals the very heart of Maggie Thatcher", said Mr Paisley. He then read out the courteous missive, in which Mr Thatcher made the mistake of writing: "Does one hear the same cry in Northern Ireland of our grievous loss of officers and soldiers of our army..."

Denis Thatcher's words recited by Mr Paisley had all the incongruity of a paragraph of Wodehouse recited by one of the Beastie Boys. His subsequent commentary on the letter was full of all the wrath he could muster, which is a lot.

Mr Paisley is not a man without humour, though a laugh from him is like a threat from anyone else. At the end of the conference, a mild-mannered Dutch journalist introduced himself.

"Your King William caused us a lot of difficulty", Mr Paisley belatedly, "but he did a good job. Before your time, of course."

The Dutch journalist, smiling, asked Mr Paisley a question about violence. His answer could have been

heard down the full stretch of a medium sized airport runway. "Don't come from the Netherlands and read me a homily about the condemnation of violence! Your country does not recognize the ballot box! You wish to destroy the ballot box! Do your research sir."

In the council house that was acting as the Sinn Féin headquarters in Glencolin in west Belfast, a reproduction of Constable's "The Hay Wain" looked out on the sitting room. Outside, fierce graffiti proclaimed the Republican sympathies of the area. Gerry Adams' reinforced London taxi, plastered in Sinn Féin posters, stood waiting.

Mr Adams' spruce appearance — layered hair, neat beard, tweed cap, red tie, smart shoes — contrasted with the knarled and nicotine-faced man behind him. He might have been a sociology professor in a football crowd, or a novice priest among natives. He has an easy and relaxed manner, and is not above being photographed with babies, though afterwards he jokes: "He'll never get a job in the shipyard now."

From out of the reinforced taxi, Irish music played. Smiling and joking, Mr Adams confirmed that this was where his agent had been shot a week ago.

Did Mr Adams think that Mr Paisley was an evil man? Ian Paisley was like a witch doctor exploiting people's fears, he said, and he dreaded to think how many young "loyalists" had ended up in prison because of him, but whether he was evil he could not say. Couldn't he be the same as of him? No, he didn't think it could.

As the rain poured down, I asked him if he had ever met Mr Paisley. He smiled. They'd once set eyes on each other in the BBC. Gerry Adams was waiting for a lift, and when the doors opened, there was Paisley. Mr Paisley refused to get out, pressed the knob, and went up to the next floor. "I thought I might run up and down the stairs and keep him in there for ever," chuckled Mr Adams. But then, if that had happened, Gerry Adams would be running up and down those stairs for ever as well.

Craig Brown

Renton summons envoy over Chaplin case

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Correspondent

Mr Timothy Renton, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, yesterday summoned Iran's Chargé d'Affaires, Mr Muhammad Mahdi Akhond-Zadeh, to the Foreign Office over the case of Mr Edward Chaplin, the British diplomat who was abducted and beaten in Tehran.

The move came as Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, hinted that British measures against Iran could be implemented soon if no apology and explanation for the incident involving Mr Chaplin, First Secretary at the British interests section in Tehran, was forthcoming.

"Our patience is not unlimited. We are looking for an

early response", Sir Geoffrey said in Liverpool.

A Foreign Office spokesman said Mr Renton's purpose in summoning the Iranian Chargé d'Affaires was "to reinforce at ministerial level points made by British officials in London and Tehran in recent days. Mr Renton was unable to give a satisfactory response."

Mr Renton gave no indication as to the whereabouts of Mr Ahmad Ghassemlu, the Iranian vice-consul in Manchester, who was held overnight by police last week before being released on shoplifting charges. His claims that he was beaten by police are thought by the Foreign Office to have prom-

pted similar treatment of Mr Chaplin by *guzmen* acting for the Central Komiteh of Iran's Revolutionary Guards.

Mr Basti said after his meeting with Mr Renton: "There seem to be certain people who are attempting to sabotage relations between the two countries...through making unfounded allegations". He said he had produced evidence disproving the charges against Mr Ghassemlu.

A Foreign Office spokesman declined to respond to comments by an MP in the last Parliament that Mr Ghassemlu was likely to leave the country following the return of his passport.

Iranians give out confused signals in crisis stalemate

Continued from page 1

"In any event, we hope that these marginal problems will be solved before precipitating a crisis in relations between our two countries."

Mr Mirmehdi seemed to imply that — despite British statements to the contrary — some kind of deal had privately been worked out between the two governments. But his statement, the first to have been made to a British newspaper by a senior Iranian Foreign Ministry official, included a distinct element of caution.

"Certain numerous factors make relations between our two countries the way they are now," he said. "In the context

of relations between two countries, there is something called 'reciprocal action' — if relations are friendly, then the response will be friendly. If relations are not cordial, or if they are antagonistic, the response will be in kind."

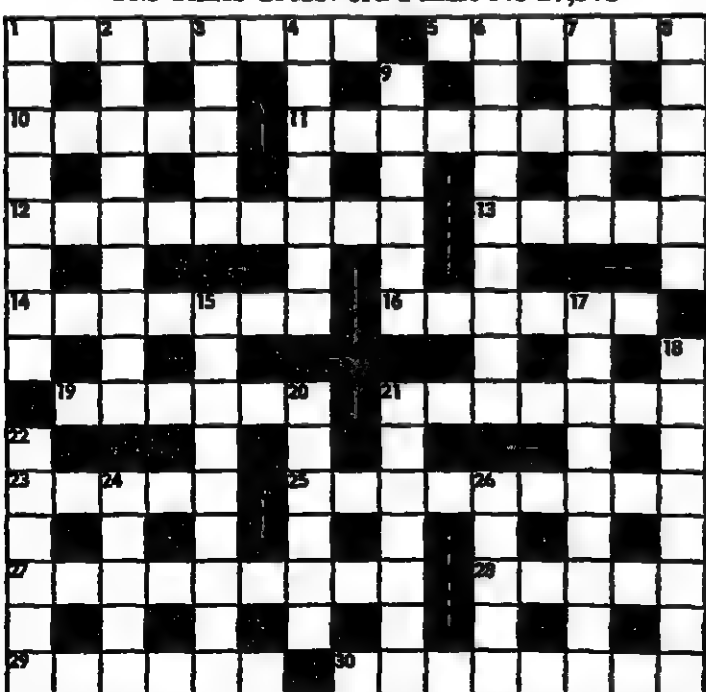
And this accounts for the weakening in bilateral relations.

But when I asked Mr Mirmehdi if it was true that some officials within his Foreign Ministry wished to see a break in relations between London and Tehran, he replied at once: "I have not heard of any officials in the Islamic Republic calling for a rupture in relations with Britain — I don't think this idea exists."

For much of yesterday British officials in Tehran were still trying to meet senior officials of the Foreign Ministry in the hope of extracting an apology or at least an explanation for the beating Mr Chaplin received.

Mr Mirmehdi was concluding a visit to Arab Gulf nations. He delivered a letter to Sheikh Issa bin Salman al-Khalifa, the Emir of Bahrain, from President Ali Khamenei of Iran, a note which the Iranian said had been "precipitated by Kuwait's invitation to the superpowers to be present militarily in the region" — a reference to the Kuwaiti tankers which travel under the Soviet flag.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 17,373



This puzzle was solved within 30 minutes by 13 per cent of the competitors at the 1987 Birmingham regional final of The Times Collins Dictionaries Crossword Championship.

- ACROSS**
- Ready to follow the flag for an allowance (3-5).
 - Private communications thus (6).
 - Early desert man (5).
 - Fashionable concern shown by a line to the hospital (9).
 - Three men to an office in Rome! (9).
 - A pine, from end to end (5).
 - Pretend to understand (4,3).
 - No one scores off this girl (6).
 - Amuse oneself with bagatelle (6).
 - Cancel a run of The Ring (7).
 - The pirate king is finished (5).
 - Dots indicating gap in speech (9).
 - Non-flyer makes accountant thus careful (9).
 - Subject exemplified in story (5).
 - One who dies to support a cause (6).
 - Detective's featured in a dozen works (8).

DOWN

- Separate prison sentence — not

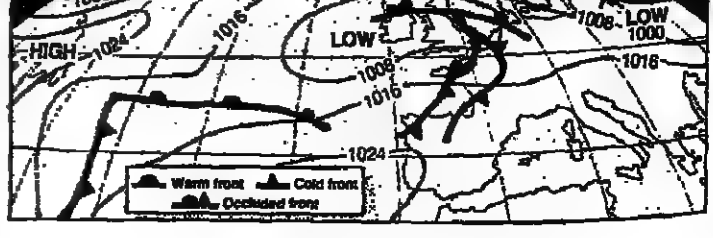
- continuous (4-4).
- One who finds fault can upset the selector (3-4).
- Sulphuric acid eating away part of the linoleum (5).
- He is in favour of the chosen people (7).
- Relation arrives in the country (9).
- Game in the shape of ducks in New Zealand (5).
- Groynes hidden in sea holly (6).
- A fine, sound state (6).
- Volunteer to repay outsiders for church gifts (9).
- Poor Belle's ill — Emily's twin (5,4).
- Stuffs made from willows with chromium tops (8).
- Make love to sweetheart disguised in Arden (6).
- Examine breakdown (7).
- Measure a drink after church outing (6).
- Medieval way of saving face (5).
- Memorial to engineer left one cold (5).

Concise crossword, page 10

WEATHER A very showery south-westerly airstream covers most parts. Northern Scotland will be cool and misty with low cloud covering many hills, and outbreaks of rain or drizzle throughout. Remaining parts of Britain should see some sun but there will also be showers, especially in the afternoon when some will be heavy and are likely to develop into longer spells of rain. Thunder is also possible in the heavier showers. The wind will be moderate or fresh in many places. Outlook: little change on Thursday, fewer showers on Friday.

ABROAD		AROUND BRITAIN		HIGH TIDES	
Algeria	18.00	London	18.00	London	18.00
Amman	18.00	Manchester	18.00	Manchester	18.00
Baghdad	18.00	Cardiff	18.00	Cardiff	18.00
Bahia	18.00	Belfast	18.00	Belfast	18.00
Bombay	18.00	Edinburgh	18.00	Edinburgh	18.00
Buenos Aires	18.00	Glasgow	18.00	Glasgow	18.00
Calcutta	18.00	London	18.00	London	18.00
Canton	18.00	Manchester	18.00	Manchester	18.00
Cebu	18.00	Cardiff	18.00	Cardiff	18.00
Colon	18.00	Belfast	18.00	Belfast	18.00
Hankow	18.00	Edinburgh	18.00	Edinburgh	18.00
Hong Kong	18.00	Glasgow	18.00	Glasgow	18.00
Kobe	18.00	London	18.00	London	18.00
Lyons	18.00	Manchester	18.00	Manchester	18.00
Manila	18.00	Cardiff	18.00	Cardiff	18.00
Medan	18.00	Belfast	18.00	Belfast	18.00
Osaka	18.00	Edinburgh	18.00	Edinburgh	18.00
Peking	18.00	Glasgow	18.00	Glasgow	18.00
Rangoon	18.00	London	18.00	London	18.00
San Francisco	18.00	Manchester	18.00	Manchester	18.00
Shanghai	18.00	Cardiff	18.00	Cardiff	18.00
Singapore	18.00	Belfast	18.00	Belfast	18.00
Sourabaya	18.00	Edinburgh	18.00	Edinburgh	18.00
Tientsin	18.00	Glasgow	18.00	Glasgow	18.00
Yokohama	18.00	London	18.00	London	18.00

AM		PM	
London	18.00	London	18.00
Manchester	18.00	Manchester	18.00
Cardiff	18.00	Cardiff	18.00
Belfast	18.00	Belfast	18.00
Edinburgh	18.00	Edinburgh	18.00
Glasgow	18.00	Glasgow	18.00
London	18.00	London	18.00
Manchester	18.00	Manchester	18.00
Cardiff	18.00	Cardiff	18.00
Belfast	18.00	Belfast	18.00
Edinburgh	18.00	Edinburgh	18.00
Glasgow	18.00	Glasgow	18.00



Executive Editor
Kenneth Fleet

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1724.3 (-6.4)FT-SE 100
2219.6 (-8.6)Bargains
47454 (49400)USM (Datastream)
182.22 (+1.1)

THE POUND

US dollar
1.6455 (+0.0200)W German mark
2.9668 (-0.0111)Trade-weighted
72.8 (same)

Grace and Berisford in venture

W R Grace, the US conglomerate, will take a stake in S & W Berisford, the sugar refiner and commodity trader, in an agreement to form one of the world's largest cocoa-processing businesses.

Berisford will acquire an initial 40 per cent voting interest in a joint venture through a \$1.6 per cent equity participation and \$31.6 million (£19.5 million) of its preference stock. Grace will own the remainder.

Turnover will be more than \$400 million.

Record profit at Norcros

Norcros, the building products and packaging group, faces a bill of about £5 million for defending itself against the takeover bid from the Williams Holdings. It reported record pre-tax profits of £53.2 million, slightly better than estimated. The forecast is £62 million for the current year when it will take aboard the costs of its defence.

Meanwhile, Williams Holdings is paying £7.1 million for Amdega, the Darlington conservatory manufacturer.

Tempos, page 30

Shares fall

Storhouse, the merged BHS, Mothercare, Habitat group, failed to impress with year-end profits (excluding property) of £123.1 million against £106.4 million, and the shares fell 23p to 294p. The final dividend rises from 5.7p to 6.3p, making 8.6p (7.7p).

Tempos, page 30

SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

New York	2298.27 (+8.04)
Dow Jones	2298.27 (+8.04)
Nikkei Dow	24902.83 (-90.15)
Hong Kong	2884.19 (+14.48)
Hang Seng	2884.19 (+14.48)
Amsterdam	285.4 (-3.3)
Sydney	1758.8 (-17.1)
Frankfurt	1780.2 (-27.4)
Commerzbank	1780.2 (-27.4)
General	n/a
Paris CAC	n/a
Zurich S&K	n/a
London FT	2219.6 (-8.6)
FT 100	2219.6 (-8.6)

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISER:	1489p (+19p)
ICI	620p (+17p)
Lucas	820p (+17p)
Blue Circle	844p (+20p)
Eurochem Intl	442p (+17p)
TV South	589p (+22p)
Unilever	3065p (+22p)
De La Rue	447p (+30p)
Ward White Group	535p (+13p)
Reed Executive	710p (+30p)
Siebe	1200p (+37p)
Regent	1850p (+18p)
Consolidated Gold	1038p (+27p)
Pacific Sales	357p (+57p)
Sims Catering	230p (+85p)

FALLS:	
Beecham	548p (-22p)
Jaguar	520p (-17p)
Dee Corporation	234p (-15p)
Storhouse	295p (-22p)

Prices are as at 4pm

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base:	9%
3-month Interbank:	8 1/8% 11 1/2%
3-month eligible bills:	8 1/8% 11 1/2%
buying rate	
US: Prime Rate:	8 1/4%
Federal Funds:	6 1/4%
3-month Treasury:	5.65-5.61%
30-year bonds:	9 1/8%-9 3/4%

CURRENCIES

London:	New York:
£: \$1.6455	\$: £0.6145
£: DM2.9668	DM: £0.3371
£: Sfr2.4477	Sfr: £0.4087
£: FF9.8877	FF: £0.1071
£: Yen233.50	Yen: £0.4280
£: Index: 72.8	Index: 100
ECU 20.697891	SDR 20.789488

GOLD

London Fixing:	
AM \$449.30 pm \$455.00	
close \$454.00-454.50	(£276.00-276.50)
New York:	
Comex \$453.20-453.70	

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (July) pm \$18.60 bbl (\$18.50)	
* Denotes latest trading price	
Bas Summary:	30
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Paul Volcker refuses third term for 'personal reasons'

Greenspan to head the Fed

From Bailey Morris, Washington

President Reagan announced yesterday that the Federal Reserve Board's chairman Mr Paul Volcker had declined a third term of office and would be replaced as head of the US central bank by Mr Alan Greenspan, the economist.

Initial market reaction to the announcement, which ended weeks of speculation, was highly negative.

On Wall Street, where Mr Volcker is considered almost indispensable, the Dow Jones industrial average dropped more than 20 points before recovering. The dollar declined sharply and Treasury bonds fell. "This has shaken the financial system," a high-ranking Wall Street official said.

Announcing his choice of Mr Greenspan as Mr Volcker's successor, Mr Reagan said the outgoing head of the Federal Reserve was "an historic chairman." He was flanked by the two monetary officials as he made the announcement at the White House. By appointing Mr

Greenspan, Mr Reagan becomes the first president since Franklin D Roosevelt to name all seven members of the independent Federal Reserve.

But despite the President's high praise, it was unclear under what circumstances Mr Volcker took the decision to decline a third, four-year term when the present one expires on August 6.

President Reagan, who said he had accepted the decision with "great reluctance and regret," declined to end the

Comment 31

speculation last week, saying it was up to Mr Volcker to signal his intentions.

Mr Volcker did not resolve the mystery yesterday. Asked if he had been offered another term, he replied: "I had no feeling I was being pushed." He said he had taken the decision late on Monday for a variety of personal reasons based on his belief that "there is a time to come and a time to leave."

Mr Greenspan has been the economist waiting in the wings to succeed Mr Volcker as chairman of the Federal Reserve Board for more than five years.

His name was the most frequently mentioned when ever there was speculation over a possible successor to the independent Mr Volcker.

In 1983, when the White House had strong doubts over the appointment of Mr Volcker to a second term, it

was widely rumoured that Mr Greenspan would be given the job. In the end President Reagan succumbed to Wall Street pressure and re-appointed Mr Volcker.

Now, Mr Greenspan has his chance. In accepting the nomination, he said he would be guided by the model set by Mr Volcker, whom he described as "the ideal chairman of the Federal Reserve".

Speaking to journalists yesterday, he expressed confidence that the US economy would avoid a recession, despite problems on the dollar, trade and inflation fronts.

"The economy at the moment looks reasonably strong and hopefully it will continue so, I see no evidence of a recession." He promised to continue the hard fight against inflation begun by Mr Volcker.

Mr Greenspan's credentials as an economist are well established. Since the late



Greenspan (left) and Volcker at the White House yesterday

Five-year wait in the wings for conservative economist

1970s, he has headed his own economic consulting firm in New York Townsend-Greenspan. At the same time, he has served as an informal economic adviser to President Reagan. His Republican ties are strong.

From 1974 to 1977, he served as chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers under President Gerald Ford. He has headed numerous government panels.

At 61, he is considered a traditional, conservative economist with a firm knowledge of the US economy.

In a recent poll of Wall Street executives who almost unanimously supported the reappointment of Mr Volcker, Mr Greenspan none the less ranked high on their list. He was third behind Mr Volcker and Mr Gerald Corrigan, head of the New York Federal Reserve Board, as the candidate in which Wall Street had most confidence.

Hanson shares dip 10p as City snubs interims

By John Bell, City Editor

Lord Hanson delivered a spectacular half-time report from his international industrial conglomerate yesterday and was greeted with a negative response in the City.

At face value the figures could scarcely be faulted. Half-year profits rose 97 per cent to £312 million, earnings per share grew by 46 per cent and shareholders are to receive an interim dividend 33 per cent higher at 1.4p per share. Yet the pretax figure was well below market expectations - between £20 million and £40 million adrift of most forecasts. Share prices across a broad front dipped on the news, with the FT-SE 100 index sharply down.

There was no lack of confidence about future prospects to explain away the sour response which prompted a 10p fall in Hanson's share price to 163p. Lord Hanson was relaxed about the rest of the year and beyond.

"Current trading encourages us to view the rest of the year with more than our usual enthusiasm," he said. "Our results and our excellent financial position enable us to view the future with much confidence."

Sir Gordon White, chairman of Hanson Industries, the US arm, pointed out that after only 13 years in America, the company ranked among the top 100 US industrial concerns. Trading profits climbed from £83 million last year to a record £103 million this time. Sir Gordon highlighted a dramatic turnaround at the Smith Corona typewriter and word processor business, with profits significantly ahead of last year's record.

The acquisition of SCM pigments made the US industrial division the most profitable in Hanson Industries.

with overall profits up 30 per cent on last year. "Our strong trading profit has resulted in excellent cash generation," Sir Gordon added. "The favourable market conditions in the US for many of our operations should produce excellent results for the remainder of 1987."

In Britain, Imperial's tobacco interests improved, as did the batteries, bricks and foods companies. While much of the impetus came from acquisitions, Hanson's organic profits growth was probably about 10 per cent in Britain and a similar amount in dollar terms in the US. American profits showed lower organic growth, perhaps 6 per cent, in sterling terms due to adverse movements in the exchange rate.

Mr Martin Taylor, Hanson's director of corporate affairs, described the performance of the long-term group activities as very satisfactory. "We deliberately avoid high risk, high growth operations and are content with the organic growth shown in the first half," he said.

While most outside forecasters were happy with Hanson's trading performance, many had been expecting a bigger increase due to share dealing profits. Mr Taylor stressed the group's policy has been to take a view of dealing profits over a full year. The contribution in half-year profits from this source was a little more than last year.

"If there has been a little disappointment with our results, I believe it is because people have become used to us doing better than they expect. Sometimes they aim too high and get it wrong," he said.

Comment, page 31

Record rise in UK reserves

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

Britain's gold and foreign currency reserves rose by a record \$4.8 billion (£2.9 billion) last month as the Bank of England intervened to hold down the pound.

The rise, which was bigger than market expectations, followed increases of \$1.8 billion in March and \$2.9 billion in April. Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, said that the rise "does provide an illustration of the fact that we have been actively pursuing exchange-rate stability."

He said that there would be no adverse monetary consequences as a result of the

intervention, because it would be "sterilized" by additional funding. Mr Lawson said: "We will fund the intervention. The funding rule fully encapsulates the effects of intervention."

The actual rise was \$4.872 billion, which took the total to a record \$34.679 billion (£21.299 billion). The reserves currently stand at twice the level of early last year. After allowing for accruals and repayments of borrowing under the exchange rate cover scheme, the underlying rise was \$4.76 billion.

The sharp increase in the

reserves, inadvertently leaked by the Prime Minister at a press conference at Conservative Central Office yesterday morning, initially helped the pound to strong gains.

However, by the end of the day the pound was down against most currencies, on opinion poll worries, but up against the dollar.

The pound rose by 2 cents to \$1.6455 against a weak dollar, but fell by more than a penny to DM2.9668 against the mark. The sterling index was unchanged at 72.8.

THF sues Savoy over Swiss stake

By Ray Heath

The Savoy Hotel and its former chairman, Sir Hugh Wontner, are being sued in the High Court over a key block of voting shares in the company.

The court action is brought by Trusthouse Forte, which under its founder, Lord Forte, and his son and successor, Rocco, has persistently pursued the Savoy group.

In its latest move against the Savoy management, which has rebuffed all takeover overtures, THF is seeking to have declared as invalid the allotment of a key block of voting shares in the company to a Swiss trust, La Fondation pour la Formation Hoteliere.

The shares are believed to have been issued in 1970, when the Savoy bought L'Hotel Lancaster in Paris from the family of M Emile Wolfe. The holding, in the



Sir Hugh: accused of breach of his fiduciary duty

name of Child's Nominees, controls 5.77 per cent of Savoy votes. Last month, Savoy revealed in its annual report that two of its directors, Mr Victor Emery, Sir Hugh's son-in-law, and Mr Martin Rodcliffe, were administrators of the foundation.

Further research has also shown that despite the denials

of any knowledge of the ownership of the Child's holding, Sir Hugh, his former secretary, Mr Emery and his wife, Jennifer, were listed as administrators when the foundation was set up.

THF is asking the court to have the allotment of 28,207 Savoy "B" shares to the foundation declared invalid and have Child's name removed as a holder of 155,138 "B" shares. It is also asking to have Sir Hugh declared in breach of his fiduciary duty in allowing the allotment of the 28,207 shares, and is seeking an order that he should pay back to the company any losses shown to have been suffered through the transaction.

A statement from the Savoy said that all the accusations made against Sir Hugh and the Savoy would be refuted.

Sturge rise by 22% forecast

By Our City Editor

Sturge Holdings, one of the largest independent underwriting agencies at Lloyd's, is forecasting a 22 per cent increase in profits to £11.6 million for the year to end-September.

The forecast accompanies the group's half-year report which showed profits up 38 per cent at the interim stage to £2.987 million.

The interim dividend is being raised by a third to 3p. Sturge's profits arise mostly in the second half of the year and the board reminds shareholders that interim results are not indicative of the 12-month outcome.

Profit commission in respect of the 1984 Lloyd's underwriting account is not received until after the end of the first half-year and certain operating expenses are booked in the second six months.

Mr David Coleridge, chairman, said the 33 per cent first-half turnover increase to £3.79 million mainly reflected the increase in net managed premium capacity from £685 million to £770 million for the 1987 underwriting account.

Profit after tax and minority interests, on the basis of the £11.6 million pretax forecast for the full year, would be about £6.7 million compared with £5.38 million in 1986.

Full-year forecast earnings per share would be 18.86p against 15.62p, after adjusting for the recent scrip issue.

De La Rue profits increase to £55m

By Alexandra Jackson

De La Rue, the bank note and security printing company, pleased the market yesterday with pretax profits of £55.6 million compared with £49.4 million last year.

The board was "looking forward with confidence to further good progress in the current year and beyond." This statement was seen by analysts as uncharacteristically bullish because De La Rue is well known for caution. The share price rose 30p to 445p.

Mr Charles Pick, of Williams De Broe Hill Chaplin, the broker, is forecasting pretax profits of at least £64 million for the present year

and earnings per share of 32p.

Turnover increased from £309.9 million to £444.1 million but trading margins slipped from 14 to 11.6 per cent. Earnings per share rose by 3 per cent to 28.3p, despite the increase in the equity due to this year's one-for-five rights issue.

Trading in the second half was especially strong, with profits more than double those in the first half.

Crosfield Electronics had an especially good year with trading profits 41 per cent higher at £16.9 million. Security printing profits rose 10 per cent to £34.6 million.

Profits fall 6% at Sketchley

Sketchley, the dry-cleaning chain, saw profits fall slightly last year, confirming that its completed reorganization and reconstruction programme will need another year to show through to the bottom line.

Pretax profits fell 6 per cent to £10.9 million, of which £8.2 million was from existing businesses.

Sketchley spent £36.9 million on 15 purchases and sold its US diaper and dry-cleaning arm for £25.9 million.

Goodwill was largely written off against the premium on shares issued, with the balance written off against shareholders' funds which declined to £33.2 million. Net borrowings were up to £14.2 million. A final dividend of 13p is proposed.

Tempos, page 30



Preliminary Announcement

"The year's most significant feature was the acquisition of the Hargreaves Group which is already contributing to the increasing strength and vitality of the Group as a whole."

Eric Varley, Chairman

FINANCIAL SUMMARY	1987 £000	1986 £000
Turnover	492,920	444,861
Profit before tax	42,976	39,422
Tax	14,780	16,488
Dividends Paid and Proposed	8.75p.	7.5p
Earnings per share	31.02p.	26.67p

The main activities of the group comprise solid smokeless fuel manufacture, oil and chemicals production and processing, oil exploration, fuel distribution and distribution, transport, warehousing and shipping services, builders' merchanting, instrument manufacture, quarrying, waste disposal, industrial cleaning, manufacture of specialised grounds and sheep farming and trading services in the Falkland Islands.

The Annual Report and Accounts will be posted to Shareholders on 3rd July 1987.

STOCK MARKET

Poll doubts hit confidence and shares go into reverse

ICI Celebrating visit to the city

FTSE ALL SHARE INDEX (rebased)

JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC JAN FEB MAR APR MAY

Takeover speculation in Bridon, the wire manufacturer, intensified as the shares jumped 1½p afresh to 225p, after having touched 230p at one stage. Speculators are convinced that Williams Holdings, the fast-growing conglomerate, has purchased Dr Ashraf Marwan's 5 per cent stake in the company and intends to bid.

A bid of 220p per Bridon share has recently been mentioned as a possible opening shot by Williams, but now this may have to be upgraded.

As part of ongoing development and expansion, the credit card launch will mean £1 million in start-up losses for the first two years, and unless there is some magic around the corner, it is difficult to see real profits growth in the year ahead.

Cleaner Sketchley

In consumer services, two key areas of growth will be in removals and laundry. A

For the moment, there are better bets in the sector.

Norcros

Mr Terry Simpson and his team at Norcross, the building materials and packaging group, yesterday delivered the goods they promised when defending their jobs and the company against the unwanted £570 million takeover bid from Williams Holdings.

Pre-tax profits were a record £53.2 million — an increase of 17.8 per cent and slightly more than promised. Earnings per share were up 31 per cent at 28p and the dividend payout goes up 29 per cent to 12p a share.

The deciding point in the battle came when there was a sudden wave of sympathy from the City.

The results confirm that recovery was on the way and Williams had left it too late to make its strike.

The continued drive for efficiency and the introduction of new products should help Norcros to squeeze even further margin improvements from the business and achieve the £62 million profits predicted for the year.

The shares, unchanged at 390p, have slipped from a peak of 450p during the bid battle but look comfortable in sectors driven by strong consumer demand.

Cleaner Sketchley

However, the reorganization has not been achieved without costs. Preliminary pretax profits for the year to March were down 6 per cent to £10.9 million. The profit contribution from new businesses acquired was a little less than the profit foregone on businesses sold, and the continuing businesses improved by only 3 per cent.

In consumer services, two key areas of growth will be in removals and laundry. A

shirt-laundry service for less than £1 should generate enough volume to justify automation of a small laundry plant bought last year.

Having pulled out of the U.S., the only overseas business is dry-cleaning in Canada where profits are still unsatisfactory.

Workwear is still suffering from its heavy dependence on British Coal, but last year growth elsewhere was enough to counteract this.

But perhaps there is most potential in the highly fragmented office equipment market through Equipu, which was bought last January for £20.8 million.

Profit of £14 million this year implies an undemanding multiple of 14.

WALL STREET

Volcker news hits Dow

New York (Agencies) — The resignation of Mr Paul Volcker, the chairman of the Federal Reserve, yesterday morning sent share prices falling in active trading.

Mr Gerald Simmons, a trader, of Smith Barney said: "He is a symbol of stability in the markets and it was taken very badly." The Dow Jones industrial average slumped by

20 points on the news before staging a mild recovery which brought it to the 2,279 level — down 9.23 points.

Declining shares outnumbered rising ones by eight to three on a volume of 35 million shares.

On Monday, the Dow average closed 3.34 lower at 2,288.23.

[illegible]

CANADIAN PRICES

CANADIAN FIRMS		
Agnico Eag	33	33%
Alcan Alcan	36%	36%
Algomaa St	16%	16%
Can Pacific	23%	23%
Cominco	18%	18%
Con Bathurst	18	18%
Hawk S Can	27%	27%
Hud Bay M	25%	25%
Inco	33%	33%
Imperial Oil	67%	67%
Int'l Pipe	48%	48%
Royl Trstco	18%	33%
Sagamin	97%	93%
Shelco 'A'	25%	25%
Thssen N 'A'	32	3.40
Vanity Cp	3.50	3.40
WGT	17	17%
Western	40%	40%

BAT INDUSTRIES
Windsor House 50 Victoria Street London SW1H 0NL Telephone 01-222 7879
Registered Office

28 May 1987

From the Chairman

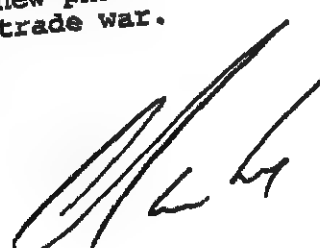
EUROPE AND THE UNITED STATES:
FAR MORE TO GAIN BY CO-OPERATION

Since its inception B.A.T Industries has experienced the many benefits that flow from the free movement of trade and investment in both directions across the Atlantic. That investment stimulates growth and creates jobs. The interdependence between Europe and the United States is so deep-seated that it cannot be reversed without great danger to future prosperity.

In Europe there are signs that the challenge of creating a more effective and cohesive economic unity has been taken up. Positive trends such as this are helping Europe act as a powerful force in international negotiations - but they should not be a cause for conflict with the United States.

The US economy is indeed facing difficulties, and we can see strong pressures for protectionism. But we must hope that they can be resisted because protectionist measures do nothing to solve the real problems or bring the world economy back to a healthy expansionist trend.

It is very easy to build the walls of protection. It is much harder to pull them down. By our example let us show that North America and Europe have far more to gain from a new phase of international co-operation than a descent into trade war.



Patrick Sheehy

Taken from comments made to shareholders at the Annual General Meeting.

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patrick Sheehy

Patrick Sheehy

Taken from comments made to shareholders at the Annual General Meeting.

BAT Industries plc Incorporated in London No 23512



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Copies of the full speech are available from the Company Secretary, BAT Industries p.l.c., Windsor House, 50 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0PL.

Copies of the full speech are available from the Company Secretary, B.A.T. Industries p.l.c., Windsor House, 50 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0NM

Post Office sale faces tough union opposition

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

The probability of a new Conservative government conducting a piecemeal privatization of all but the Royal Mail operations of the Post Office will come as a bitter blow to the Post Office board and Sir Ron Dearing, its chairman, who has lobbied consistently for his corporation not to be broken up.

Sir Ron remained silent yesterday and has avoided any public comment on the merits of privatization. But he has made clear to ministers that the postal service can only deteriorate if parts of the corporation are hived off in separate lots to the private sector.

Trade union opposition to the privatization of the Post Office, led by Mr Alan Tiffin, the general secretary of the Post Office union, has been unusually strong.

Sir Ron, who is likely to announce next month the Royal Mail's 11th successive profitable year, reiterated his board's view on privatization last December. Ownership of the Post Office was entirely a political matter, he said.

"However, whatever form of ownership may be decided,

the board says plainly — as a matter of business, not politics — that the corporation should remain as one entity because each part reinforces the other."

Mrs Thatcher's comments yesterday appeared to give tacit approval to most of the recommendations made at the end of last year by the Centre for Policy Studies, the Conservative think-tank, in a study by Mr Robert Albon, an Australian lecturer.

He proposed that the Post Office's constituent businesses be established as limited companies, that the National Girobank, already separate, should be sold; that the Post Office counter services be sold and their monopoly of government agency work, such as paying unemployment benefit, be abolished; that the letter-carrying monopoly be removed; and the obligatory £1 minimum charge by private delivery companies be halved.

But Mr Albon's ultimate proposal that the parcels and letters businesses be sold into private hands was not found government approval. Mrs Thatcher said she felt strongly that the Royal Mail was

different and "we feel it should stay (in public ownership)."

The long period of price restraint, including the rebates on stamp prices, has depressed Post Office profits in the past year. In the 12 months to the end of March, the pretax figure is expected to be about £125 million compared with £167 million in 1985-86. But Sir Ron has pledged to keep postal price increases below the rate of inflation for the next five years.

In 1985-86, the Royal Mail — the collection and delivery of letters and parcels — made a profit of £110.4 million and the counters service, which the Conservatives already consider to be partly in the private sector through the existence of sub-post offices, recorded £26.4 million.

In support of its argument that a piecemeal sale would be wrong, the Post Office says services from other parts of the corporation account for half the costs of the parcels business and half Girobank's costs, while the counters business obtained 40 per cent of its income from selling its services to other Post Office businesses.



Taking a bow before an historic debut: Roy Bishko, chairman and chief executive of Tie Rack

Tie Rack floated on record ratio

By Alexandra Jackson

Tie Rack, the fast-growing niche retailer of ties and accessories, is being floated on an historic price-earnings ratio of 31.5 times — a record for an industrial company.

The group will be worth nearly £50 million at the 145p offer for sale price announced yesterday by Samuel Montagu, the sponsoring bank.

None of the existing shareholders, who include Mr Roy Bishko, the founder, is selling shares.

The 8,600,000 new shares being offered will raise £12.47 million before expenses.

Tie Rack, which started as a side-line in a heel bar at London's Oxford Street in 1981, has more than 115 outlets. Ninety-seven are in Britain and the rest in Canada, Ireland, France and the US.

The company has developed an individual form of franchising which motivates the franchisees management while enabling the group to control the location and underlying direction of the business.

The minimum application

will be for 500 shares, which will cost £725 at the issue price.

The offer closes at 10am on Tuesday, June 9.

Mr Christopher Clarke, a director of Samuel Montagu, said the initial response to the issue had been favourable. Sock Shop, a similar niche retailer which came to the market last month, was 55 times oversubscribed and opened at a substantial premium.

Mr Clarke said consideration had been given to other methods of bringing Tie Rack to the market, such as a tender offer and a placing. It was decided, however, that an offer for sale was the best route, given the group's strong consumer base.

Nevertheless, the group wished to have a broad shareholding base which would include institutional investors.

Up to 10 per cent of the issue will be reserved for allocation to employees and other preferential applications.

COMMENT Kenneth Fleet

Dollar's challenge to the new Fed pilot

Paul Volcker's imminent departure as chairman of the Federal Reserve Board has featured in more market rumours than the respected Fed chairman has chewed hot cigars. But the news, when it came, was a surprise. Having built itself up for a Volcker third term, if perhaps a shorter one than usual, the financial world was taken aback by yesterday's White House announcement.

The shudder that the Volcker decision sent through the bond and currency markets was predictable, if a little unfair to the new man, Alan Greenspan. As one analyst wryly remarked: "The dollar would have fallen if they had appointed God."

The change of pilot does, inevitably, cast a different light on the likely course of monetary policy in the United States. Though not necessarily desirable, it was possible, particularly given the dollar's recent strength, for the Fed under Volcker to avoid a rise in the discount rate, despite the strong upward movement in US money market rates in the past two months.

The Greenspan appointment had immediate implications. It immediately took the steam out of the dollar's rally, pushing it below DM1.80 yesterday. And it puts the onus on the new, 61-year-old Fed chairman to prove himself by bold-policy action.

Mr Greenspan, who was chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers under President Ford, is regarded as a mainstream Republican economist with sound anti-inflation instincts. What he does not have is the reputation as a dollar hawk his predecessor enjoys. His first comment on appointment, that he thought the dollar had fallen far enough, sought to put this right. This stands in embarrassing contrast with his view a month ago, when the dollar was no higher, that the dollar still had some way to fall.

The new chairman knows the Wall Street bankers, through his consultancy Townsend Greenspan, as well as anyone, but he is much less familiar with other central bankers. His lack of experience in external affairs compared with Mr Volcker is bound to cause nervousness; but it is worth remembering that the underlying problem of the US economy is fiscal not monetary. What the dollar needs most of all is President Reagan to cut the budget deficit, something which is not in the power of any chairman of the Fed, whatever his experience and skills.

What Mr Greenspan probably will do is follow the Volcker line in criticizing America's slow progress in reducing the deficit. And, given his comments yesterday about the minimal dangers of a US recession and the need to stabilize the dollar, he is unlikely to shrink from making a move on the discount rate.

The Greenspan appointment comes in the run-up to next week's Venice summit, where it would be unrealistic to expect dramatic new moves on the currency front. That said, yesterday's dollar fall, along with Britain's record \$4.8 billion (£2.95 billion) rise in the reserves last month, shows that the currency accord agreed in Paris earlier this year remains vulnerable.

The worries of US markets and the dollar's fall were predictable, the concern that spilt over into London slightly less so. But, apart from the daily rumour of impending bad (for the Tories) opinion polls, there were good reasons for a correction. The dollar's fall below DM1.80 took sterling at least part of the way with it, the pound dropping to DM2.96. And neither equities and nor gilts are yet fully decoupled from the New York markets.

As importantly, the bigger-than-expected intervention to hold down sterling last month, together with Chancellor Nigel Lawson's promise that this policy will be continued into the indefinite future, has unsettling prospects for the gilt market. Hence falls of around half a point yesterday.

The net funding requirement for this year has already shot up from around £2.5 billion to £7 billion since Budget day, because of the need to sterilize intervention in the foreign exchange market through extra gilt sales.

The gilt market does not mind foreign demand for sterling assets being reflected in higher reserves and lower interest rates. But it objects to a monthly moving target for funding.

Derby Day enigma

On the eve of the Ever Ready Derby, Hanson Trust showed brilliant but baffling interim form. The most meticulous of numerate Hanson watchers declared themselves puzzled. According to their careful calculations, Hanson might easily have delivered profits £20 million or more higher than published. Lord Hanson is far too wily a market operator to reveal his share-dealing profits. Back-of-envelope calculations point to profits of £12 million to £15 million from the joint raid with Sir James Goldsmith on the Goodyear tyre group in the US. The sizeable stake in Bowater has been cut, perhaps sold off, for a profit in the region of £5 million to £10 million. A rumoured coup in Boots, bought around the 200p mark and sold for 280p or thereabouts, could have added £20 million to the pot.

The most plausible construction is not that the analysts got it wrong, but that Hanson has decided to smooth the dealing profit contribution. Or, if you prefer, to tuck a good deal away for a rainy day.

Mecca Leisure doubles interim profits to £4m

By Joe Joseph

Unlucky gamblers who have never landed the jackpot at one of Mecca's 77 bingo halls might have done better to put their money on the company.

Shares in Mecca Leisure, floated on the stock market last October at 135p a share, edged up another 2p to 215p yesterday after the company announced a healthy jump in profits during its first half year as a quoted concern.

Pretax profits more than doubled to £4.14 million from £2.01 million in the six months to March 31, with returns from the bingo clubs and the company's entertainment and catering division still dwarfing those from its Warner holiday camps. Shareholders will receive an interim dividend of 1.5p a share.

"We consider that this is a good half-year result," said Mr Michael Guthrie, the chairman, who first steered Mecca

towards independence with a £95 million management buy-out from Grand Metropolitan in December 1985.

He predicted a boost in capital investment from the £8.2 million spent last year to £27.8 million in 1986-87 as Mecca developed its night clubs, bingo halls, restaurants and leisure complexes into what he called "a 52-week-a-year business" not dependent on seasonal shifts in demand.

He admitted that Mecca was unlikely to see the benefits of many of its recent investments until the very end of the current financial year at best, but said "our investment programme will give us enormous growth opportunities for 1987-88."

Mr Guthrie, explaining the modest overall rise in turnover of less than £1 million to £39.69 million in the first half of the year, said: "It is

necessary to take into account the fact that we disposed of a number of low-profit and loss-making branches during 1986 which removed a significant amount of sales turnover. Adjusting for this, turnover in branches currently trading was about 7 per cent up on a year ago."

He said bingo hall admissions had increased by 2 per cent, a significant rise considering the trend in recent years has been downwards.

Although the introduction of pasta and pizza restaurants into some of its nightclubs has helped to fatten turnover, Mecca's entertainment and catering division suffered badly from the icy weather in January and the closure of five branches for refurbishment. These include Mecca's largest, Le Palais in Hammersmith, London, which is reopening on Saturday.

Randall buys 58.6% stake in Sims

By Michael Tate

Mr Ron Randall, the former butcher who last year sold his Meadow Farm Produce group to Hilldown Holdings for £62 million, has paid £3.6 million for a controlling stake in the USM-controlled Sims Catering Butchers.

The shares, representing 58.6 per cent of the Sims share capital, have come from Mr Terry Finn, Sims managing director, who trained at the same Waterloo Road, London, butchery school as Mr Randall.

Mr Randall paid 165p a

share in cash and, in line with City takeover rules, is making a similar offer to other shareholders. Few are likely to take his money.

The Sims share price rocketed 85p to 230p on the stock market in anticipation of Mr Randall's plans for the business.

The two former butchers met a week ago, a few days after Mr Randall's 40th birthday.

He "jumped at the opportunity" to obtain an early share listing for his embryonic processing and packag-

ing business after a recent holiday at his hotel in Amigara contemplating his future. He left Hilldown in January.

Sims has struggled since its USM launch in early 1985. Unlike Meadow Farm, which primarily served the large hotel chains, it sold to small, private customers and found difficulty in winning business.

Profits in the first half of the year to end-March were down from £326,000 to £254,000.

Mr Randall, supported by former Meadow Farm colleagues, Mr Douglas Appleby,

once a director of the Boots Company, and Mr David Brady, plans to build a slaughtering, packaging and distribution group. He is believed to be about to complete the acquisition of a packaging business with a turnover of more than £40 million.

Mr Finn, who stays on as managing director of Sims' meat business, said: "It is to the benefit of the company and its 620 shareholders, as the share price already shows. And Ron Randall brings a very strong management team."

Quaint problem for Quant

Archie McNair, chairman of Thomas Jourdan, the company which owns the old Mary Quant empire, is facing an embarrassing problem involving the world's oldest profession. In short, McNair owes certain ladies of the night "quite a considerable sum" for services rendered. The debts date back to the last war and Jourdan's origins as a French company with a London quote by the name of Naraguta Karama — nicknamed Kama Sutra by London dealers. At that time it had mining interests in West Africa with the French workforce regularly entertained by local ladies, giving them bearer warrants to pay for their services. Now McNair, who took over the company and changed its name to Jourdan in the early 1970s, has been forced to open a separate account for their bearer warrants. "Most of the woman probably threw these scraps of paper away not knowing their worth," he says. Now he is considering disenfranchising this unusual posse of shareholders. "Mind you, I may consider issuing bearer warrants to pay for my next acquisition," he adds with a twinkle in his eye.

Reactions

Stuart Wamsley, the perennial number one chemical sector analyst, has, I'm told, handed in his notice at last. After protracted negotiations and last-minute attempts by his present employer Greenwell Montagu to persuade him to

THE TIMES CITY DIARY Man of property

Who said life at the top was profitable? For a company with properties worth £3 billion, Land Securities' payment to its chairman, Lord Samuel of Wych Cross, looks too modest by a few zeros. According to its latest annual report, he receives the princely sum of £65 a year — yes, £65 — and

the company secretary assures me that is correct. No doubts have been inadvertently left off, and the payment has, I am assured, remained unchanged for a number of years. But then Lord Samuel does own 450,000 shares and is the non-beneficial owner of a further 19.45 million on which an 11p a share dividend is paid.

change his mind, Wamsley has, I am assured, made up his mind to join the American investment house Morgan Stanley. His departure will mean the end of Greenwell's once famed chemicals team — its other members left for merchant bank Morgan Grenfell several months ago.



"I always thought a debit card was a fully-used-up credit card"

Coffee break

Company switchboards do not always connect you to the person you want — as Senator Claudio Vergur found when he telephoned our very own Times switchboard the other day. After repeatedly asking for the commodities editor and explaining that he was from the Brazilian Coffee Institute, he was put through to Wapping's catering department no fewer than three times. "No, I am not trying to sell you coffee," he kept reassuring the staff. "I am not the man from Kenco."

● A straw poll of election literature in the City seems to be coming out, somewhat predictably, in favour of the Conservative party. A blue and white poster on the walls of the renowned fish restaurant Sweetings, in Queen Victoria Street, reads: "If Labour wins the election, will the last person to leave the country please turn out the lights."

Minister in her prime

Margaret Thatcher, at 61, often looks no older than her political rival, Neil Kinnock, who is 16 years her junior. But it could be that the secret of her vitality and endless energy is now out. According to the latest edition of *Boardroom* magazine, she has been undergoing a course of Hormone Replacement Therapy. The treatment involves her taking replacement oestrogen and progesterone drugs, which would, it is claimed, give her the mind and body of a 40-year-old rather than a 60-year-old. Is it true? "We are not in a position to comment," say the press men at Number 10.

Yarn-spinning

Property developer Flaxyard, making use of its first tenant, The Observer, to advertise for further tenants of its prestigious Marcopolo office complex, is obviously struggling to attract the Kensington and Chelsea set south of the Thames. The advert pictures a model of the as yet unfinished building — which looks like a Chippendale-style aircraft hangar — backed by a railway line, and the blurb runs that "from a standpoint of discrimination, The Observer has chosen... Marcopolo at Chelsea Bridge". Still trying to place it? A neighbouring site houses one of London's biggest landmarks, a listed building scheduled for redevelopment in the near future. But perhaps Marcopolo at Battersea Power Station would not have quite the right cachet...

Carol Leonard

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BCal's limousines under fire in Tokyo

From David Watts, Tokyo
 British Caledonian's inaugural non-stop flight from London to Tokyo flew into local turbulence when it touched down yesterday.

BCal's key to winning a slice of the highly competitive route from British Airways and Japan Air Lines is its door-to-door limousine service for executives travelling in first and business classes.

That service, however, may be a violation of Japan's fair trade regulations and is being investigated by the Fair Trade Commission.

British Airways, which had tried to block the BCal Tokyo application, last night denied it had filed a complaint with the FTC, as did Japan Air Lines. It therefore appears the investigation is being launched by the FTC itself.

The FTC, which comes under the prime minister's office, has the power to initiate investigations and is not obliged to reveal whether or not an inquiry has been started because of an outside complaint.

British Airways, meanwhile, plans to offer free transport to and from Narita airport this week. The airport is at least one hour's drive



Sir Adam Thomson: hopeful that service will be approved from the centre of Tokyo and can take much longer during rush hour. BA will use the ordinary limousine buses that already travel between the airport terminal in the centre of the city and Narita and various hotels.

Under Japanese law, extras on offer from an airline may not be worth more than 10 per cent of the value of the traveller's fare. With BCal's one-way business class fare to London at ¥405,000 (£1,723) when booked in Tokyo, and the cost of a taxi about ¥50,000 from the centre of the city, it is debatable whether the offering is indeed a breach

of fair trade regulations. BCal argues that the cost of the service is factored into the price of the ticket.

BCal says it did not clear the limousine service with the authorities in advance because it is part of a service offered in many other countries.

"We're flattered that they are investigating us," said a BCal spokesman.

"My impression is that it is being very well received," said Sir Adam Thomson, chairman of British Caledonian. "We're very hopeful that it will be approved. We're already operating it because we had started before we knew there was a complaint."

BCal says it expects to carry 50,000 passengers in the first year on its two weekly non-stops and one Moscow-stopping flight, despite the late start caused in part by a delay in winning over-flight rights from the Soviet Union.

There is a considerable difference between the company's fares charged at either end of the Tokyo-London route. A business class one-way ticket costs the equivalent of £1,723 when bought in Tokyo and £941 when bought in London.

'No cut in Japanese surplus for five years'

The large Japanese trade surplus is unlikely to be reduced in the next five years, the Japanese External Trade Organization (Jetro) said in Tokyo yesterday.

British companies faced a tough task in breaking into Japanese markets, said Mr Hiroshi Fujiwara, Jetro's European deputy manager.

He added: "I am at a loss as to what advice can be given to British companies."

"Things are very difficult because the financial system in Japan is very different from that in Britain."

British financial institutions needed patience in waiting to become members of the Tokyo Stock Exchange.

Mr Fujiwara said: "We would like you to wait. The City of London is virtually an international market while Japan is comparatively backward in the financial sense."

He gave favourable views on British and Japanese managements and, referring to workers, said: "The dexterity and skills of the British labour force is just the same as the Japanese."

"I have the impression there is no substantial difference between British and Japanese workers."

He was speaking at a press conference for British journalists after the Anglo-Japanese talks in London at the weekend. The talks are understood to have ended with Japan outlining a timetable for British membership in the Tokyo Stock Exchange.

Mrs Thatcher, Prime Minister, is to join Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, the Japanese Prime Minister, and other world political leaders for the Venice economic summit, where the Japanese surplus is expected to dominate proceedings.

Thousands of farmers gathered in central Tokyo yesterday to urge the government to stand firm against foreign pressure for further opening of Japan's markets.

Officials of the powerful Central Union of Agricultural Co-operatives said about 5,000 representatives from 4,300 farming groups joined the demonstration.

The farmers were demanding that the government avoid easy compromises on liberalizing agricultural imports at the Venice summit.

Coalite shares fall 4p despite profit increase

Coalite, the fuel and transport group chaired by Mr Eric Varley, the former Labour Industry Secretary, announced a 9 per cent rise in pretax profits to £42.98 million for the year to March 31, largely in line with expectations.

But the City, feeling that Coalite has yet to reap the full benefits of its purchase last November of Hargreaves, the fuel distribution and shipping services group, marked the shares down by 4p to 383p.

Turnover rose to £493 million from £445 million and the company is paying a final dividend of 6.5p, making 8.75p in all, or 1.25p more than last year.

Analysts said falling crude oil prices and high exploration costs hit Coalite's Oilco division, while production and distribution of solid fuels, fuel oils and chemicals was also slightly disappointing.

Coffee countries to review quotas

By Colin Narbrough

The leading players in the raw coffee market agreed yesterday to take a fresh look at the way export quotas are shared out as a first step towards ending oversupply and propped-up prices.

Delegates from consumer and producer countries, meeting on Bali, gave the International Coffee Organization's executive board full backing to review quota distribution.

Schörr Fritz Dubois, the ICO board chairman, said all board members wanted to start negotiations soon. Brazil, the world's leading producer, which said before the meeting it would not take any cuts in its 30 per cent share of world exports, would also return to negotiations, he said.

Schörr Dubois, a Peruvian, said he expected a final com-

promise could be reached before the full ICO council session in September.

Brazil took the main blame for the failure in April of an ICO attempt to restore quotas abandoned last year.

The ICO has been trying to persuade its members to reintroduce quotas from October to counter falling raw coffee prices, which are at their lowest for 25 years if allowance is made for inflation.

Exports by ICO members in the first seven months of the current coffee year fell to 34.8 million 60-kg bags from 41.2 million the previous year, according to provisional figures issued yesterday. Brazilian exports to members fell to 6.2 million bags from 8.6 million, but sales to non-ICO markets rose to 990,000 bags from 899,000.

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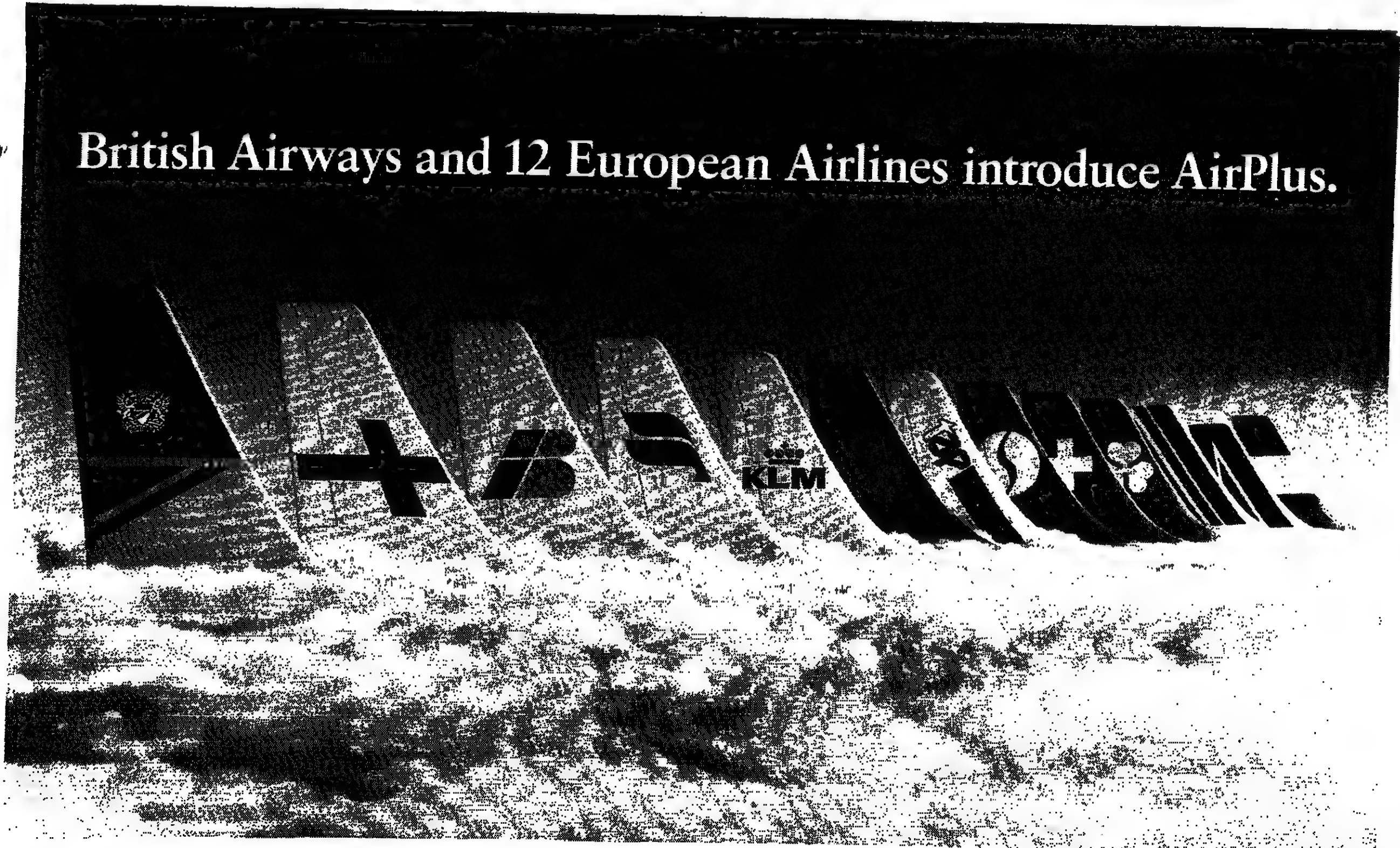
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Final dividends for the year ended
31st December 1986
Script Dividends

At the annual general meeting held on 28th May 1987 shareholders approved the recommended final dividends for the year ended 31st December 1986, and also the recommended capitalisation issue of shares in the proportion of one new 'A' share for every five 'A' shares and one new 'B' share for every five 'B' shares held on 24th April 1987.

By the closing date of 28th May 1987 for the lodgement of election forms in Hong Kong and London, elections for cash dividends had been received from the holders of 540,602,004 'A' shares and 932,345,026 'B' shares on the record date of 24th April 1987. Accordingly, the following new 'A' and 'B' shares have been allotted to shareholders in respect of the final dividends for 1986 to be satisfied by the issue of scrip:

	Number of new shares issued	Proportion of existing shares in issue (adjusted to take account of the capitalisation issue)
'A' shares	8,127,757	0.8408%
'B' shares	41,981,291	1.4037%

Certificates for the new 'A' and 'B' shares were despatched to shareholders on 2nd June 1987 and The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited has granted listings for and permission to deal in these shares from that date.

By Order of the Board
JOHN SWIRE & SONS (H.K.) LIMITED
Secretaries

Hong Kong
3rd June 1987

Swire Pacific Limited
The Swire Group
Swire House, Hong Kong.

Barclays names board members

Barclays Bank UK: Mr Peter Dawson, Mr Geoffrey Milligan and Mr Peter Ellwood join the board.

Unitech: Mr Pratt Thompson becomes an executive director and Sir Colin Carrance a non-executive director.

Arthur Young: Mr Hugh Moaro becomes office managing partner, Aberdeen.

Expamet International: Mr John Bryson has been appointed group finance director.

Berwin Leighton: Mr Simon Allan has been made a commercial property partner.

Charles Russell & Co: Mr James Holder, Mr Mark Alsop, Miss Amanda Crowe, Mr Peter Scandrett and Mrs Hilary Tuckwell join the partnership. Mr John Hancox becomes finance director.

Fuji Bank: Mr Taizo Hashida becomes president on June 26 and Mr Yoshiro Araki becomes chairman.

Croydex: Mr Peter Bonner has been made marketing director.

TSB Group: Mr Don McCrickard joins the board. Freere Cholmeley: Mr Maxwell Hudson has been made a partner.

Carlisle Capel & Leonard: Mr Robert Rayne has become a non-executive director.

Union Carbide Corporation: Mr Joseph Geoghan is elected vice-president and general counsel from July 1.

Reed City: Miss Trish Col-



Trish Collins: divisional director of Reed City

lins has become divisional director.

Citicorp Investment Bank: Mr Simon Hood becomes vice-president, loan syndication/asset sales area.

Sterling Public Relations: Mrs Harriet Weiss and Mr Roger Edwards join the board.

London and Northern Group: Mr Osman Abdullah has been made chairman and chief executive with Mr Raschid Abdullah as vice-chairman.

Ciba-Geigy Plastics: Mr Alan Maltress has been named managing director and Mr John Readmore deputy managing director.

Northern Rock Building Society: Viscount Ridley has become chairman and Mr Robert Dickinson deputy chairman.

Seawheel: Mr Martin Tolhurst has been made operations director.

Gallagher offshoot sold to Glynwed for £14m

COMPANY NEWS

Glynwed International is buying an Italian thermoplastic valve and pipe business. Formatura Iniezione Polimeri, and its British sister company, FIP (UK), based in Weybridge, Surrey, from Gallagher for about £14 million.

The two companies made profits of £1.4 million last year on turnover of £19 million.

FIP's products are said to be highly complementary as regards range, materials and markets to those of Glynwed's Durapipe subsidiary. The acquisition is expected to appreciably develop and strengthen the group's position in the thermoplastic pipework systems market.

The purchase price will include £9 million of debt assumed by Glynwed. The balance will be paid in 12 months' time.

The sale reflects Gallagher's decision to sell its peripheral activities. The proceeds will be used in the expansion of its core businesses.

BENTALLS: Mr LE Benall, the chairman, told the annual meeting that, although May was not such a buoyant month for retail sales, trading profits for the first four months showed a substantial increase on last year.

He was confident that Bentalls would produce a good, first-half trading result.

DELTA GROUP: Plastools, a maker of moulding tools for plastics based in Middleton, Manchester, has been bought for about £600,000. Plastools is a supplier to high-technology in-

dustries, including electrical, electronics and medical equipment manufacturers.

JAMES NEILL HOLDINGS: Mr Hugh Neill, the chairman, told the annual meeting that 1987 had got off to a good start.

Demand had increased and the company was benefiting from cost-savings already derived from reorganization. It was just beginning to see further savings from new plant and machinery.

WYEVILLE: Contracts have been exchanged for the purchase of the Calton Garden Centre at Owermoigne, Dorset. The centre comprises freehold land of 11½ acres, with buildings, fixtures and fittings and stock. The price will be satisfied in cash on completion. Land and buildings will be purchased at £930,000 and fixtures and fittings at £70,000, making £1 million. The new centre will contribute significantly to the group's profitability.

BENNETT & MOUNTAIN GROUP: The group has bought the retail division and certain associated assets, valued by the directors at about £245,000, of Martins of Chelsea, a London-based electrical retailer.

ENERGY RESOURCES & SERVICES: Dealings in the company's shares, which were suspended on May 26, have been cancelled following shareholders' approval of reorganization proposals. A Rule 520 has been issued, admitting a new company - Energy and Resources International - to the official list.

MONKS & CRANE: Total dividend raised to 3.11p (for the year to March 31, 1986) figures in 2000. Turnover 28.48 (25.31). Pretax profit 2.011 (1.512). Earnings per share 10.7p (8.0p).

LANMONT HOLDINGS: Sir Desmond Lorrimer, the chairman, told the annual meeting that profits for the first four months of 1987 were substantially ahead of the same period in 1986 and that he had every confidence in the future.

MACARTHY: Natures Store has been bought for a maximum of £1.7 million.

PROWING: Chase Manhattan Securities is placing 6 million, 8.3 per cent, redeemable preference shares, 2002, of £1 each at par. In 1981, Prowing issued 1.01 million 13.75 per cent cumulative preference shares of £1 each. A listing for these shares, by a placing of some of them, is also being sought.

POLYMARK INTERNATIONAL: Management accounts for the first quarter of the current year show that operating profits are more than double the £115,000 achieved in the first quarter of 1986, the annual meeting heard. Polymark started the year with a record order book and the current position remains encouraging - although delays in completion of contracts by the two laundry divisions are expected to depress profits in the second quarter.

JOHN MOWLEM: The Peter Cox Group, a subsidiary of Mowlem, has purchased the Vermex Group, a pest and bird-control and hygiene services organization. Funding for the purchase will come from the Cox Group's own resources.

ALPHA STOCKS

Company	Volume '000	Company	Volume '000	Company	Volume '000
Alfred Lyons	3,200	English China	1,100	Rank Org	281
Amstar	7,600	Fisons	1,800	Rank Home	84
Argyll	2,500	Gen Accident	721	Redland	1,300
ASDA-MFI	7,600	GEC	12,000	Reduz Colman	185
Asa Br Foods	1,200	Glass	3,300	Reid Int	1,300
BET	1,000	Globe IT	525	Reid Int	760
BTR	4,100	Granada	3,200	RMC Group	331
BAT	2,200	Grand Mrt	4,200	RTZ	2,000
Barclays	3,000	GUS A	75	Rowntree	425
Barrs	917	GNE	215	Royal B of Scot	918
Beecham	5,100	GKN	1,300	Royal Ins	1,700
Blue Circle	1,500	Guinness	4,000	Saatchi	1,200
BOC	1,400	Hanson	28,000	Sainsbury (J)	1,400
Brays	9,700	Hawker Siddeley	295	Isaacs	7,100
BPS Ind	403	Helsdown	5,200	Sedgwick Gp	307
BPCC	1,800	Imp Chem Ind	1,300	Shell	2,800
Br Aerospace	3,300	Jaguar	3,700	Smith & Nephew	1,300
Br Airways	14,000	Ladbroke	3,800	STC	2,600
Br Comm	271	Land Securities	1,900	Stn Chan	180
Br Gas	31,000	Legal & Gen	1,700	Stratford	12,000
Br Petroleum	8,300	Lloyds	1,800	Sun Alliance	372
Br Telecom	12,000	Lornto	4,700	Tarmac	1,800
Bruto	2,700	Marks & Spencer	1,900	TBS P/P	3,700
Bunzl	974	NEPC	1,100	Thorn EMI	1,400
Burton	1,800	Medway	413	Trialgar House	2,800
Cable & Wireless	3,500	Nat West	1,300	Trusthouse Forte	1,000
Cadbury Schwepp	3,700	Next	7,400	Unigate	867
Castle Vye	1,500	P & O Dtd	687	Unilever	672
Com Union	3,800	Pearson	584	Unit Biocells	2,900
Corn Goldfields	2,200	Pearson Bros	1,500	Unit Biocells	2,900
Cotton Gin	273	Plessey	4,200	Walcot	874
Courtauld	1,500	Prudential	712	Whitbread A	3,200
Dier Corp	5,200	Racal Elect	3,700	Woolworth	314
Dunlop	757				

RECENT ISSUES

EQUITIES	Rolls-Royce (65p)	178
Airtours (180p)	236 +3	263
Astra Hides (28p)	38 +1	233
Barrett H (77p)	108 +1	172 +4
Bateman (115p)	155 +5	86
Bonded Laminates	108	189
Burford (80p)	288 +25	191 +1
Camb Isolapex (55p)	88 +1	218 +1
Chemway Int	241 +3	250
Computer People (230p)	290 -1	
Cundall (125p)	148	
Dorflex (135p)	176	
Flintco	181	
Mallott	231	
Maroh Gp	123 -1	
Nobo (150p)	187 +1	
Parapetrol (180p)	97 +1	
Practical (83p)	105 +8	
RKF	186 -1	
Reliance Sec		

RIGHTS ISSUES

Aspec N/P	32
Episcure N/P	17
FLS N/P	95
KLP N/P	39
Rock N/P	81 +1
Tay Hornes N/P	89
WORS N/P	74 -1

(Issue price in brackets).

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Market rates	Market rates	1 month	3 months
N York 1.875-1.880	1.8450-1.8480	0.27-0.28p	0.85-0.86p
Montreal 2.188-2.194	2.208-2.214	0.15-0.16p	0.51-0.52p
Amsterd 3.410-3.420	3.310-3.320	11-12p	31-32p
Brussels 61.33-61.80	61.33-61.80	14-17p	32-32p
Calcutta 11.140-11.220	11.140-11.220	21-22p	31-32p
Dublin 1.108-1.113	1.108-1.113	22-23p	31-32p
Frankfurt 2.945-2.960	2.945-2.960	14-15p	31-32p
London 230.30-232.78	230.30-232.78	14-15p	31-32p
Madrid 206.81-207.98	206.81-207.98	14-15p	31-32p
Osaka 21.38-21.44	21.38-21.44	14-15p	31-32p
Paris 6.800-6.841	6.800-6.841	14-15p	31-32p
Singapore 10.347-10.357	10.347-10.357	14-15p	31-32p
Tokyo 232.25-236.59	232.25-236.59	14-15p	31-32p
Venice 20.80-21.00	20.80-21.00	14-15p	31-32p
Zurich 2.444-2.457	2.444-2.457	14-15p	31-32p

Errors in yesterday's figures were due to a technical difficulty.

Sterling index compared with 1975 was same at 72.8 (day's range 72.8-73.1).

OTHER STERLING RATES

Argentina austral	2.6421-2.6538
Australia dollar	2.2941-2.2973
Bahian cruz	2.6125-2.6165
Brazil cruzeiro	56.4893-56.8036
Cypriot pound	0.7640-0.7640
Finland markka	7.2072-7.2475
Greece drachma	221.25-223.25
Hong Kong dollar	12.8170-12.8228
Indo rupee	20.82-21.05
Kuwait dirham	0.4540-0.4580
Malaysian dollar	4.0512-4.0578
Mexico peso	20.60-21.10
New Zealand dollar	2.8424-2.8491
Saudi Arabia riyal	6.0125-6.0175
Singapore dollar	3.4733-3.4792
S Africa rand (cont)	5.4835-5.5187
S Africa rand (cont)	3.2181-3.2249
UAE dirham	5.6700-5.6100
Lloyds Bank	

Rates supplied by Barclays Bank NCFER and EMI.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Three Month Sterling	Open	High	Low	Close	Est Vol
Jun 87	91.16	91.16	91.16	91.36	4510
Sep 87	91.35	91.46	91.25	91.36	4510
Dec 87	91.20	91.26	91.20	91.22	378
Mar 88	91.04	91.10	91.02	91.02	145
Jun 88	90.90	90.94	90.90	90.94	54
Sep 88	90.80	90.80	90.80	90.74	0
Dec 88	90.80	90.80	90.80	90.74	0
Mar 89	90.80	90.80	90.80	90.74	0

Previous day's total open interest 22550

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

First Dealings	Last Dealings	Last Declaration	For Settlement	
May 18	Jun 5	Aug 20	Sep 1	
Call options were taken out on:	2/8/87	Recall, SW Resources, NEI, British Gas, British Telecom, Cambium Venture, Prop. Trust, Tarmac, Rix Williams, Atlantic Resources, JFB, Raplan, Arington, Abaco, M Fort, Rotomati, Gulf Oil, Norfolk Capital, B Matthews, Arant, Ladbroke, W Boulton, Land Securities, Mercury Intl, ASDA-MFI, Rolls-Royce, Harney, Mowlem, Hanson Trust, Chloride Group, Thorn, Regentrest, Plessey, Welcome, British Airways, Brydon, Astra Holdings, Eike & Goldstein, Hawker Group, Dares Estates, Asprey, Corroy, Parkfield, Dunton, Five Oaks, Tyndal, Blackwood Hodge, Harwood Group, Anglo Ltd, Aquasurum, Sangers, London Sainsbury, Sainsbury, Gots & Dandy X, Hawker.		
Put, Attributed				
Put & Call, Gulf Oil				

British Gas Shareholders: you must make your second payment by 3pm on 9th June.

The second instalment of one-third of the purchase price of your British Gas shares is now due. If you haven't yet paid it, read on.

If your payment isn't received by 3pm on 9th June 1987, you may lose your right to your British Gas shares, your dividends and/or any entitlement you may have to bonus shares or bill vouchers.

Send your payment at once in the pre-addressed envelope which was sent to you with the statement of exactly how much is now due.

And don't forget to enclose the statement with your payment.

If you haven't received your statement, contact immediately the British Gas Share Enquiry Line, National Westminster Bank PLC, Caxton House, PO Box 343, Redcliffe Mead Lane, Bristol BS99 7SQ (telephone 0272 294 188).

If you have any problems with the statement, contact your bank manager, stockbroker or other financial adviser right away.

British Gas Share Offer

Issued on behalf of National Westminster Bank PLC as Registrar and Custodian Bank.

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

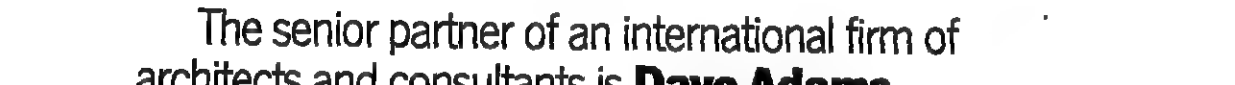
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De Beers	1100	120	180	195	50	85	110
11130)	1200	60	120	160	125	140	160
	1300	25	75	120	205	225	250

2050	217	235	250	—	14	27	30	—
2100	173	195	210	—	22	37	42	—
2150	132	160	175	192	32	52	55	70
2200	87	127	143	160	48	67	72	83

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NEC

Chibank NA 9.00%

The benefits of recent strategic moves are now making themselves felt in De La Rue, and the Board looks forward with confidence to further good progress in the current year and beyond.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

CURRENCY

SECURITY PRINTING

CROSFIELD ELECTRONICS

PAYMENT SYSTEMS

SECURITY AND IDENTIFICATION SYSTEMS

Our credit and bank card activities have been put under one management team which takes in also our Identity Systems business. De La Rue Printrak has broken through into profit and, furthermore, has entered this year with a strong order book for automated fingerprint identification systems.

Year to 31 March
1987 1986

Copies of the Preliminary Report and Chairman's Statement are available from The Secretary, De La Rue House, Burlington Gardens, London W1A 1DL.

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Portfolio
—Gold—

From your portfolio card check your eight share price movements, on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches, you have won outright or a share of the total prize money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Gain or loss
1	CRH	Building/Roads	
2	Highgate & Job	Industrials E-K	
3	Greaves	Industrials E-K	
4	Went Hedges	Building/Roads	
5	Adington Secs	Property	
6	Land Sec (a)	Property	
7	Allied Colloids	Chemicals/Plas	
8	Whitbread 'A' (a)	Breweries	
9	Third Mile	Industrials S-Z	
10	Macarthy	Industrials L-R	
11	American	Chemicals/Plas	
12	Romer	Industrials L-R	
13	Julian's Hides	Leisure	
14	Bus Mortgage	Bank/Discount	
15	Michell Somen	Industrials L-R	
16	Br Land	Property	
17	Slough Estates	Property	
18	Brixton	Property	
19	Powell Duffryn	Industrials L-R	
20	Stanley (AG)	Draperies/Stores	
21	Laporte	Chemicals/Plas	
22	Roofing	Property	
23	Drummond	Chemicals	
24	Barnes-Anderson	Industrials A-D	
25	Century	Oil & Gas	
26	Song Ram	Industrials S-Z	
27	Sindair Goldsmith	Property	
28	Portals	Industrials L-R	
29	Durano	Electricals	
30	Wiggins	Building/Roads	
31	Crown House	Industrials A-D	
32	GR	Industrials E-K	
33	Chapman	Paper/Print/Adv	
34	Anchor Chemical	Chemicals/Plas	
35	TNT	Industrials S-Z	
36	Hickson	Chemicals	
37	Prognostic	Property	
38	Bank of Scotland	Bank/Discount	
39	Joseph (Leopold)	Bank/Discount	
40	Countrywide	Building/Roads	
41	S & U Stores	Draperies/Stores	
42	Alexon	Draperies/Stores	
43	Lloyds (a)	Bank/Discount	
44	Nest (a)	Draperies/Stores	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £3,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	WEEKLY TOTAL

BRITISH FUNDS

1987	High	Low	Stock	Price	Orig	Yield	Div
SHORTS (Under Five Years)							
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MEDIA & MARKETING

With friends like these ...

OPINION
Eddy Shah

The night before the London Daily News was launched, Derek Jameson, who was hosting the Wogan show, invited me on to the programme — along with Robert Maxwell — for what Derek called "a friendly chat" about how the year had gone and what I thought of the new paper.

I walked on to the Wogan set, where a shirt-sleeved Robert Maxwell was sitting with Derek, having already been interviewed. "How do you feel about today now that it's a failure?" Derek asked. So much for a friendly chat.

"It's not a failure," I replied, explaining that very few new projects succeeded immediately — The Sun had taken 14 years to build its present circulation. Today, Derek insisted, "is a boring paper".

Now I don't believe that I should interfere with editorial freedom, but it irked me that as he criticized Today for being "boring" and a "failure", he was still content to draw £20,000 a year for writing a column a week for the newspaper. I almost sacked him in front of an audience of seven million people. After all, why should he draw a high wage from a company he didn't believe in?

But one cannot blame Derek; he is merely a product of a sector of the British Press that is dominated by those who criticize for the sake of criticism, cynical journalists who have done very little in their own lives yet feel their profession gives them the right to tell others how to live theirs, and are often guilty of the excesses with which they charge their victims.

I don't include the rambling tabloids in this because that is a moral dilemma which must be resolved by people who actually buy those papers in order to read about someone else's private life. The ones I criticize are the sup-

posedly responsible journalists who, through their irresponsibility, knock those in our society who do their best but are not always successful. They turned on Freddie Laker — it didn't matter that he was the victim of big business and a falling exchange rate, but still managed to bring international air travel within everyone's reach. Clive Sinclair fell foul of them and they turned on him — not with their poison pens, but with the very keyboards and computers that he had pioneered. Hugh Fraser, who died recently, never stopped trying and that in itself was a triumph ignored by his detractors.

They remember Rupert Murdoch as the man who "sacked" (their expression) 5,000 staff and not as someone who has created many more jobs over the years. And now they are waiting for Richard Branson and Alan Sugar to slip, so that they can turn even the smallest misfortune into a catastrophe.

In America, the media are fierce, but usually fair. Over there, they understand that failure and success go hand in hand — you need a few setbacks so that you can eventually be successful as you learn from your mistakes.

It is a lesson I hope the journalists' committee on Sunday will learn; if they succeed, it will make them more appreciative of the trials in our society. As one who has faced the knackers, I only hope that the "criticize for the sake of it" brigade will ease off and, as Britain surges forward, will encourage those who deserve support.

I still listen to Derek Jameson's Radio Two programme when I'm in the shower. He seems to have become more tempered by success. I hope he knows how to catch himself when they decide he is going to fail.

Eddy Shah launched Today newspaper on March 4, 1986

Praying for a live TV miracle

On Saturday the Pope will say the rosary in Rome, joined live by a billion and a half Catholics around the world — if an ambitious satellite link-up works. Charles Miller reports

In Poland, Mother Teresa will pray; in Caspique, Paraguay, a congregation of a million will gather to watch in St Mary Major, the oldest church in Rome, the Pope will lead the way; and at Limehouse Studios in London, a production team will be biting its nails.

The cause is *Prayer for World Peace*, the most complicated live programme ever attempted, linking the Pope with one and a half billion Roman Catholics. *Prayer for World Peace* is an hour-long broadcast on Saturday in which Rome will be put into two-way communication with congregations in 15 other locations around the world, and watched by many millions more of the faithful in their homes. So far no British broadcaster has agreed to show the programme, but the organizers are trying to arrange a special satellite feed to St George's church in Southwark.

Limehouse Studios in Docklands will be the nerve centre of the operation, along with three "sub-control" studios in New York, Frankfurt and at the London facilities house, Molineux, receiving pictures of the various "live" congregations, mixing them and sending them on to Rome and the rest of the world.

The programme is being produced by Global Media, a Los Angeles-based company, whose experience on the worldwide transmissions of *Live Aid* and *Sport Aid* will help it untangle the problems of using 18 satellites at once, allowing the Pope to say the rosary line by line with congregations around the globe. Many of the "inject points" contributing live pictures will be silos where the Virgin Mary has reportedly appeared, often entreat- ing Catholics to say the rosary more

often. Prayers will be said in 10 languages, five spoken by the Pope himself.

In the tradition of previous "Aid" programmes, *Prayer for World Peace* is an act of faith in more ways than one. Nobody knows how many of the places sending pictures back to Limehouse Studios will be ready on the day. The most complex part of the operation is allowing the Pope, as he prays in St Mary Major, to see and hear congregations who are responding to the lines of the rosary as he says them. Satellite delays of one and a half seconds, as pictures are flashed across the world, have to be controlled to prevent the respondents hearing the echo of their chants in the TV pictures bouncing back from Rome and thus getting embarrassingly out of sync with the pontiff.

Like the BBC and ITV, the networks in America have turned down the chance of carrying the programme, but 120 of their affiliated local stations will be taking it and Global Media is encouraging them to send their own crews to churches where the event will be watched on big screens. The signal sent to America will have opt-out points into which these local pictures will be fed.

The soundtrack will also be broadcast on Vatican shortwave radio in 35 countries and on the Voice of America (which by special arrangement will not be jammed by Russia because of Poland's participation). The programme will also be transmitted on the American Forces TV and radio networks and will be available on telephone conference lines in Britain and America. Global Media is additionally offering access to the "talkback" audio circuit (linking all the direc-

How the Pope's peace message will embrace the world



tors and producers) to any interested film and TV students or broadcasters not taking part in the global broadcast.

Dan Fendel, Global Media's spokesman at Limehouse, says the company was set up by a veteran American TV sports director, Tony Verna (inventor of the instant replay), to pursue "global interactive TV projects. Tony calls it The Other TV," says Fendel. "Regular TV you turn on and watch. The Other TV watches you at the same time. We happen to be doing this for the Catholic Church, but we'll do it for anyone. We're not a religious company."

"Television has the power to unite the whole world, but it usually only does it through reporting tragedies and disasters. But there are countless possibilities for using similar global programmes based on things we all have in common, for example music. We

could show you all the greatest jazz players in the world all at once, or all the great circuses."

The cost of *Prayer for World Peace* is being met by the Bic razor company, a Catholic media foundation, Lumen 2000, and Global Media itself. Fendel emphasizes that Bic is not getting any commercials slipped into the prayer, just a simple acknowledgement at the beginning and end of the programme. Even that will be blacked out in European countries where on-screen plugging of such sponsorship is forbidden. As far as the Church is concerned, the broadcast simply launches a year of prayer for peace.

Global Media has already alerted the Guinness Book of Records, and hopes to find the programme in the next edition under "Biggest Live Television Broadcast". As Robin Barry-King, who is masterminding the production, says wryly: "If it all works, it'll be a miracle."

Global Media is arranging a

comprehensive array of follow-up products that is almost as logistically complex as the programme itself. After the programme Mother Teresa will be recording a special message of her feelings about the occasion which, together with the various extra footage shot in America and at other locations, will be edited into a 90-minute videocassette version of the broadcast.

This will be available in as many languages "as there are countries who want it", says Fendel, adding that there have been enquiries already from Japan. There will also be an audio-cassette of the broadcast. Still photographers are being dispatched to every production location so that a commemorative booklet can be compiled. And finally, one camera at every location will be fixed on the production crews themselves, so that a documentary on the making of the broadcast can be put together for distribution in cinemas.

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Robert House, Grosvenor Place,
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Tel: 01-225 2020, ext. 3488.

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Plastics and Rubber Weekly, the leading and only weekly publication serving the plastic and rubber markets with a display revenue that runs into 7 figures, is looking for a Display Advertisement Representative to cover the South West.

The person appointed will be in their late 20's/early 30's with a proven track record of at least three years sales experience. Energy, enthusiasm and the ability to work amidst a highly motivated and committed team is essential.

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Technical and Relations

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MEDIA & MARKETING

Prints of Arabia

London is the new centre of hi-tech publishing for the Middle East

The late Egyptian President, Gamal Abdul Nasser, knew the value of getting his message across. He insisted that Radio Cairo should have the most powerful transmitters in the Middle East and built the so-called "semi-official" newspaper *Al-Ahram* into the leading international voice of Arab opinion.

Thirty years later Arab countries are keen to be heard. For the last decade London has been a leading centre for Arab media, but its role is changing from passive service to active hi-tech operating centre.

In May 1980 the London-based Saudi-owned daily, *Shawq al-Awsat* (The Middle East), became the first newspaper in the world to use international facsimile transmission. Today, from editorial offices in Holborn employing 200 people, *Shawq al-Awsat* pumps out copy to printers in London, Jeddah, Riyadh, Dammam, Casablanca and New Jersey. In all, 140,000 copies are produced (about 10 per cent in London). It calls itself the only newspaper printed simultaneously on four continents.

Now *Shawq al-Awsat* is gearing up to cater for the half a million Arabs who visit Europe each summer. On April 25 it launched a special weekly section in its London edition. Next month, with an investment of more than £3 million, spent largely on British scanners, it introduces the first newspaper satellite link with Frankfurt.

And *Shawq al-Awsat* is not stopping there. This autumn it is buying its own printing press in London.

Andrew Lycett

Saatchi and Saatchi may be called in to improve London's police image. Angela Neustatter reports

Gentle arm of the law

The news that the Metropolitan Police have been having talks with Saatchi and Saatchi brings mischievous thoughts to the mind of advertising executive Tony Toller who can visualize "a fabulous campaign" with the friendly village bobby, a veritable Mr Plod from the world of Enid Blyton, being resurrected.

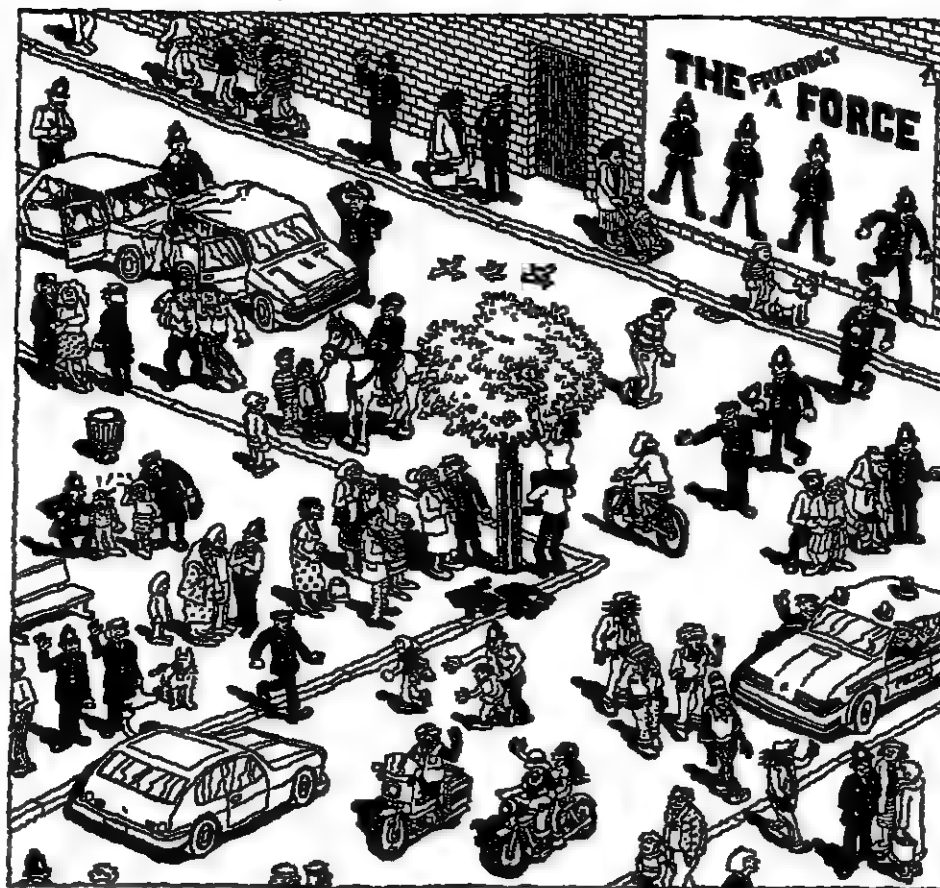
Not likely, or even appropriate, he concedes, but what are the police after? The fact that they are chewing the cud with a top ranking advertising agency suggests that they feel some kind of concerted action is needed, and their popularity rating has, allegedly, fallen by some 10 per cent over the past year.

At the Metropolitan Police headquarters they are circumspect about it all. A spokesman assures me the exploratory talks are not connected to the idea that the police have a bad image, but he says: "The police are always concerned at getting what they do across to the people."

A tougher line is taken by Brian Hillyard, editor of the *Police Review*, who points to polls showing the drop in police popularity and feels that a positive campaign to boost the police image would be a very good thing. He says: "There is a police chief in Buckingham who got into the press recently because he gave an order to the force that everybody should smile."

"He was recognizing what the management now wants — a force which comes across as friendly, but I don't think an advertising campaign with billboards of smiling policemen would be quite right."

"The problem the police have to tackle are those caused by the loss of individuality which has come with police travelling in van loads and descending on a situation, and by the police being closed and unhelpful when a situation occurs where the public is upset. The idea of a policeman as an individual who can be



helpful and on the public's side has been slipping.

"So I believe a pro-active publicity campaign is needed, a kind of Saatchi and Saatchi flying squad to arrive on the scene when things are going wrong and they are getting hostile publicity, to help them handle it right."

"Take the cases of Cherry Grove and Stephen Waldorf; there was no way the police behaviour could have been defended, but a good consultant would have been able to help them present a satisfactory public answer and make themselves as open as possible to the public."

But he acknowledges a problem the police face in trying to get across a palatable image: "The media created the public image of the police more powerfully than anything else and they are not inclined to present friendly,

village bobby stuff even when it happens. This reinforces my belief that what is needed is a campaign to combat what the media presents."

Saatchi and Saatchi are keeping very quiet about any thoughts they may have on improving the public image of the police, but other advertising agencies have been more forthcoming with ideas.

Dave Christensen, creative director at Lowe, Howard, Spink thinks it would be a tricky campaign because the adman or woman would have to balance his or her ideas of how best the police could be effectively portrayed against the things the powers at the Met have in mind. But given a free hand he would, he thinks, take a lot of inspiration from "a very good and powerful

campaign" which he saw in the United States.

There, he explains, facts about the police were used emotionally: "One which sticks in the mind showed a picture of a child's broken bike in the back of a pick-up truck and the words 'If your child isn't in by 7 o'clock who do you ring by 8pm?'"

"It was a very powerful, positive image of something immensely valuable the police do, but without having to use a lot of sentiment about the good policeman."

"Another ad came out at the time of the black riots, when the police were very unpopular generally. This showed a policeman with a limp child in his arms and underneath the words 'pig'. It illustrated very graphically the human, painful things the police have to do all the time, even though they

are also seen to be doing unpleasant things."

Tony Toller, creative director at The Creative Business, makes the point that if the police were suddenly seen to be spending a lot of money on advertising themselves, they would get harangued for using public money that way. Instead, he would think of approaching organizations with a vested interest in getting the public to develop better relations with the police.

He says: "I see it more as a PR exercise than straight advertising. For example, you get on to some of the big insurance companies which have an interest in reducing crime and get them to advertise on the lines of 'If you have a lot of things worth protecting in your house, ask your local policeman for advice and if you build up a rapport we'll knock 5 per cent off your next premium'."

"The real point of all this is that it would be a practical way of involving the police with the public. It might break down some of the hostile ideas about them, some of the fears and the feeling that the only encounters people have with the police are unpleasant ones."

There has been some recent advertising concerning the police, commissioned by the Tory Party. Large posters showing a long arm of the law grabbing a dishevelled looking young man, bear the words: "10,500 more policemen are helping the police with their enquiries."

Brian Hillyard is not impressed: "It doesn't present a pleasing image of the police," he thinks, and, tactically, it is a mistake for the police to appear to be aligned to a political party. Which brings him back to the talks with Saatchi and Saatchi: "If the police were to choose the agency which has so successfully promoted the Tories, then this is surely what they would be seen to be doing."

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BYLINES

Up-market on Sunday

The arrival at *News On Sunday* of David Jones as executive editor indicates the paper's likely change of editorial direction after the publication of its new business plan in three weeks' time. Sales figures are less than half its initial 800,000 circulation target, underlining the NOS's failure to carve out a commercial niche as a left-wing, down-market tabloid.

From a smaller circulation base the paper's only hope is to attract greater advertising revenue as a more up-market read for young left-of-centre professionals — a sort of Sunday *Guardian*. That would be a job perhaps more suited to the ideas of an investigative television producer than to the *Sun*-trained talents of Keith Sutton, the present editor.

No one at the NOS, however, seems to know a great deal about the new executive editor. Jones is a "career journalist", according to a NOS spokesman, Kevin Monsley, and has worked for Granada Television's *World In Action* and latterly on documentaries for Central Television. "He also worked on light items for Granada," is Monsley's helpful afterthought.

In fact, Jones's most recent work for Central's *Viewpoint* '87 network documentary slot has included two films on schizophrenia last year and a film critical of the present system of police complaints procedure this year.

On line

After several years of despair, the cable television industry is experiencing an enormous surge of confidence. Boosted by rising subscription levels, it now believes that the Cable Authority is about to accelerate the piecemeal franchise process by awarding a new franchise covering the entire city of Birmingham. The industry is also optimistic that a new Tory government will remove the regulations of satellite TV from the IBA and hand it to the Cable Authority.

Hand-me-downs

According to the latest figures from the National Readership Survey, the British are becoming more possessive with their magazines. The survey for the six months ending in March shows only one of the top 20 titles, *Just Seventeen*, has increased its number of readers per copy compared to the same period last year. The men's magazines *Mayfair* and *Fiesta* registered the biggest drop — one-third — in their pass-on readerships.

Flow-through

Thames became the latest ITV company to introduce late-night viewing this week, but tonight's film, *Appointment with Fear*, which starts after the news at 2am, may not be the shape of things to come — it is British. The IBA

may have extended broadcasting hours but it has not extended the quota of imported programmes (14 per cent) the companies are allowed to buy in. This will mean that companies will use up their American films and series late at night, and will have to find British programmes, probably repeats, to show in the afternoons. For this relief, the housewives may say, much thanks.

Briefing . . .

Women's Wear Daily, the bible of the American fashion industry, is to launch a version of its consumer lifestyle offshoot, the magazine *W*, in Britain this autumn. . . The British DBS consortium, BSB, may test-run its new programme service on the French DBS satellite, which is due next year. . . Saatchi and Saatchi Compton has identified cinema advertising — already almost fully sold for 1987 thanks to booming audiences — as the coming medium for reaching ABC1 adults under 25. . . Former Tube producer Malcolm Gerrie is to head a new television production subsidiary of leading pop promo outfit, MCMG. . . ITV's European cable entertainment service, Superchannel, is to be repackaged and marketed to American cable operators. . . The *London Evening Standard* plans to launch its weekly colour supplement next month.

David Housham

Technical Public Relations

The demand for good technical journalists and capable P.R. professionals has increased to a point almost beyond belief. (Age range 24-42 years)

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Contact: Diana Simmons, Classified Sales Manager, MacLaren House, Scarbrook Road, Croydon, CR9 1QH. MACLAREN PUBLISHERS LIMITED, A member of the EMAP MacLaren Communications Group.

THE BURLINGTON MAGAZINE

Promotion/ Circulation/ Assistant

Responsible, under the supervision of the General Manager, for promoting the magazine to potential subscribers, handling subscription enquiries, overseeing subscription administration, and dealing with any other matters relating to the circulation of the magazine.

The ideal candidate will be a good communicator, enthusiastic, highly numerate and literate, with some knowledge of art history and the art world, and a good grasp of detail. Typing is essential; languages (French/German/Italian) useful; some experience of magazine publishing or of promotional/PR work would be an advantage. Suitable for recent graduate.

The Burlington Magazine is a leading international monthly magazine covering the fine and decorative arts. The successful applicant will be working as part of a small team in a friendly and informal atmosphere. Salary according to age and experience.

Applications with CV stating present salary and the names and addresses of two referees should be sent to: Miss Kate Trevelyan, General Manager, The Burlington Magazine, 6 Bloomsbury Square, London WC1A 2LP (Tel: 01-430 0481).

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£10,000
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CREATIVE & MEDIA COMMUNIQUE

BBC APPOINTMENTS

REGIONAL TELEVISION MANAGER

South-West
Plymouth

A challenging opportunity to provide the editorial and management leadership at this fast growing BBC centre. BBC South-West in Plymouth has established a first-class reputation for the production of documentaries and features, many of which are subsequently networked. Spotlight is one of the most-watched regional news magazines in the country and the Region has recently won a new network commitment for Waterfront, the maritime affairs magazine.

You will carry line management responsibility for all the station's functions and provide creative leadership for the teams producing regional and network programmes. The efficient and economic use of resources and new developments will all form part of your wide ranging brief.

Sound editorial judgement and proven programme production and management experience should be backed by knowledge of news and current affairs operations and a flair for developing and finding the backing for new programme ideas. You will need to be committed to the role of the BBC in the South & West and, ideally, will be familiar with the Region and its concerns.

Completed application forms should be returned by Monday, 15th June 1987. (Ref. 1510/T)

BENGALI PROGRAMME ORGANISER

Central London

The Bengali Programme Organiser works to the Head of Eastern Service and is responsible for broadcasts in Bengali to Bangladesh and India and for managing 11 staff. The programme output of one hour and five minutes a day has a strong emphasis on news and current affairs.

You should have a sound knowledge of international affairs, particularly of South Asia, and of British domestic and foreign policy. You will need first-class news judgement and programme sense, the ability to lead an experienced and enterprising team of broadcasters, and the capacity to work effectively under pressure.

The other attributes we look for are experience in the production of topical programmes, first-hand knowledge of South Asia and an understanding of the history and culture of the region. If you are not already proficient in Bengali you should be prepared to acquire a degree of proficiency in the language at an early stage.

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Peterborough

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FUND RAISING EXECUTIVE

FOR NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS CHARITY (London W1)

The person appointed will assist in the co-ordination and development of the national fund raising effort and the provision of support and advice to the regional branches. Specific responsibilities will include the planning and development of major events, development of sponsorship and the management of grant applications. Applications will be considered on a rolling basis. Post 25/2/87. £10,000 p.a. with appropriate experience in a promotional or fundraising environment, are now looking for graduates and experienced staff. For consideration at different stages in their development, call 01-253 0386 or 01-253 0387. Write with C.V. to: Managing Director, National Human Rights Charity, 200 Strand, London WC2R 0AL. Tel: 01 253 0386.

GOOD NEWS

£18 - 30,000 p.a. 9.30 to 5.30 pm. International Perfume House highly successful in the States, Canada and Japan. Is now expanding into the UK market. The press loves us so will you:

Social hours! No direct selling to the public. Fantastic potential! Full training given. Its fun!

Call Graham now on 01 948 8107/6196

TRAINEE RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

We are a successful and fast growing recruitment consultancy specialising in all levels of sales and marketing recruitment. We now seek to expand this division and therefore require young, intelligent and energetic consultants, preferably with sales experience and the ability to develop their own client base.

Candidates with the necessary drive and ambition to earn circa £16-20K should telephone Heather on 01-623 4688 City Recruitment Consultants.

YOUNG EXECUTIVES/GRADUATES

If you want the same excitement and financial rewards of working in the commodities market and think you can take the pressure, join us and learn how telephone selling can give both the excitement and rewards. If you can pass our selection process you can expect to earn up to £15,000 by the end of the year. Call Stirling Johnstone on 01 935 0819

Sales & Marketing Manager

North

c£25k + bonus + quality car

Cross International is part of the Cross and Trecker Corporation, the world's largest machine tool group. We specialise in sophisticated machine tool systems and the high quality of our products is matched by the calibre of the supporting organisation. We are particularly committed to integration and growth in Europe.

A key role in the European organisation is performed by the U.K. Sales Marketing Manager, who leads a small team of professional engineers, primarily operating in this country and especially servicing key accounts in the automotive industries. The incumbent will also be expected to make a significant contribution to future strategy in respect of product range and market opportunities.

We seek a graduate engineer, probably late thirties, with a capital engineering sales background. It is essential that this premier ambassador for our Company has not only the toughness and drive to lead from the front in demanding and complex sales negotiations, but also the intellectual vision and business acumen necessary for our future market place. It follows that a proven sales track record and the ability to interface with all levels of an organisation are necessary requirements, as well as the mental and physical resilience to withstand the demands of punishing schedules.

The prospects from this position are excellent and candidates will be expected to display managing director potential. Remuneration is negotiable and will not be a prohibitor in us appointing the right person. First class benefits also include an excellent relocation package and four times salary life assurance.

Please write with a C.V. to: R H Egerton, Personnel Manager, Cross International, Knowsley Industrial Park South, Merseyside L34 9EZ. Tel: 051 546 2010.

TELESALES EXECUTIVE BIG COMPANY BLUES?

Are your efforts going unnoticed? Is your potential being overlooked? Don't despair. Findlay Publications has the opening that you have been waiting for and the chance to achieve the recognition you deserve.

We are the UK's leading technical publisher employing around 150 people. We operate from luxury offices (a splendid 16th century Elizabethan manor house) and enjoy excellent working conditions.

The company puts quality first in all its work and is justifiably proud of its achievements.

Our standards are high, but then so are yours!

If you are exceptionally talented and your career seems to have ground to a halt, we have dynamic career opportunity waiting for you - plus an unrivalled salary package to offer the right person.

Your next call could be the best you have ever made!

Ring Malcolm Cameron now on 0322 77755

UNRIVALLED OPPORTUNITY IN A DYNAMIC SALES ENVIRONMENT

An international marketing and promotions company offers a unique opportunity for dynamic young sales orientated men and women. Our defined expansion programme for 1987/88 has created the following position.

SALES EXECUTIVES O.T.E. £35K

You must be aged 21-40, mature, motivated with a high degree of perception and pleasing personality. £1000 per month qualified retainer (including car allowance) plus high rate of commission, with personal incentive commensurate with experience.

After an eight month qualifying period, opportunities are available to transfer to our offices in the U.S.A., Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

Managerial positions available Autumn '87 for those with a proven track record in the company. Excellent earnings package.

Full training is provided. Extensive media back-up and continuous promotional activity ensures strong consumer interest and a high level of repeat business.

To apply, please write enclosing a C.V. quoting reference SM/T7275 to:

The Recruitment Officer,
Crestline Publicity Ltd.,
1105 High Road, Whetstone,
London N20 0PT.

For further details and early interview please telephone 01-446 6629/6620

TELEVISION HEAD OF PRODUCTION SERVICES

Blackrod, one of the country's leading producers of TV programmes in the areas of broadcasting and corporate communications, is seeking a person of exceptional abilities to manage its expanding Production Services Department.

This department is responsible for programme planning, budgeting, cost control, the purchase of a large amount of outside production resources and facilities the management of the Company's own in-house video post-production facilities.

Reporting directly to the Chief Executive, the Head of Production Services will be involved in all aspects of the work of the department and will liaise with the Company's team of producers and the financial department.

The successful candidate will have excellent management and organisational skills, extensive production management experience, a sound knowledge of film and video, an awareness and appreciation of the programme-makers' goals and an ability to work under pressure. Experience in drafting and negotiating commercial contracts and in computerised costing systems would be desirable.

A very attractive salary and benefits package will be offered to the right candidate who will play a key role in the future development of the Company. Those interested should apply in writing, enclosing a detailed CV to:

Clive Moffatt, Chief Executive,
BLACKROD LIMITED,
Threeways House, 40-44 Clipstone Street, London W1P 7EA.

BLACKROD

Dagmar-Tara Limited

Staff Agency for Creative Personnel in design and print

Graphic designers, illustrators, photographers, typographers, paste-up artists, typesetters, all off-set machine operators and print finishers. Staff at all levels including management and account executives.

55 Cornwall Street
Birmingham B3 2DH
021 200 1520

48 Chandos Place,
London WC2N 4HS.
01 379 4141

FUND RAISING EXECUTIVE

FOR NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS CHARITY (London W1)

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LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

IN PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE c. £15,000

Are you looking to join an organisation where initiative and professionalism are well rewarded? Our client, a specialist firm of Financial Advisers based in EC4, seek a PA/secretary of the highest calibre to become an integral member of small, select team. Confidence and poise gained through previous experience at senior level will enable you to build a rapport with top international clients and become involved in exciting new projects.

An ability to cope with pressure whilst retaining a sense of humour will be essential.

Skills of 100/60+, age 22-30.

Please call 01-631 0479.

Seer Selection
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

BE A TEMPORARY SECRETARY, NOT JUST A TEMP!

Tired of being taken for granted? As an experienced secretary with extensive knowledge of word processing, particularly IBM Displaywriter and Wang, we can offer you:

- Up to £7 per hour
- Overtime pay
- A friendly professional service
- A selection of London's top assignments

To join our team of valued, high calibre secretaries, please call Camilla Arnold on 01-631 0479.

Seer Selection
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

TRADING AT THE TOP c. £13,000 + BONUS

Are you resourceful and fast on your feet? Do you have the confidence to liaise with top international clients and cope with working in a dynamic, fast moving environment?

The young M.D. of a highly successful American trading company seeks an assertive and well educated P.A. to take responsibility for prioritising his sometimes frenetic schedule and to co-ordinate the activities of a busy team of brokers.

A knowledge of the City and skills of 100/60 will be required. Age preferred 24-32.

Please call 01-631 0479.

Seer Selection
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

Recruitment Consultant 24-30

The success of our business is dependent on the quality of our recruitment consultants. We look for individuals who are confident, assertive and have a proven track record in recruitment. We offer a competitive salary and a challenging role. If you are interested, please call 01-589 8807.

JOYCE GUINNESS
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANT
21 St James Avenue, Hammersmith, W6 7JH

INTERNATIONAL PETROLEUM ENGINEERING CONSULTANTS LIMITED

is a successful petroleum engineering consulting company consisting of some forty staff and based in the West End of London. We are expanding and require the following staff:

Marketing Co-ordinator

To provide organisational and administrative support for the Sales and Marketing Department. The ideal candidate would have:

- degree or similar qualification;
- fluency in two or more European languages;
- varied work experience in a sales and marketing environment.

• good secretarial skills, preferably with word processing experience.

Oil industry experience would be an advantage;

Receptionist/Telephonist

Responsible for reception, including post and telefax. You will be smart and well spoken with typing and secretarial skills and at least 3 years work experience.

WP Operator/Secretary

You will be one of our secretarial team, responsible for various secretarial activities, including word processing and company filing. Typing skills must be excellent and Rank Xerox wp experience preferred, although we are prepared to x-train.

The above positions carry excellent salaries and benefits. Please reply in writing with full CV to Barbara Woolcott, International Petroleum Engineering Consultants Limited, 18 Hanover Square, London W1R 9DA.

PIPEC INTERNATIONAL PETROLEUM ENGINEERING CONSULTANTS LIMITED

Secretary/PA - Personnel

W1 c£10,000

Tootal Group plc is a large international company, and we are looking for a bright self motivated Secretary/PA to the Personnel Executive - Clothing Operations.

The role will be to provide a full secretarial service, and in addition will include recruitment and training administration, liaison with staff up to Board level, and generally to provide administrative support to the Personnel Executive.

Good accurate shorthand and typing (word processing) skills are essential, together with pleasant telephone manner. Personal presentation and communication skills must be of the highest standard, and you must be used to working on your own initiative. Previous experience of Personnel would be an advantage.

We offer an attractive salary and benefits package.

Please ring in the first instance Christine Docherty on 01-387 2817. 204 Great Portland Street, London W1N 5HG.

SECRETARY TO THE MAYOR OF THE LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW

£10,251 - £10,902

Are you an experienced Secretary/Administrator looking for a more rewarding and responsible job offering a wide variety of duties and the opportunity to work with a considerable degree of freedom?

You should be able to work under pressure, with minimum supervision, take on responsibility and have good oral and written communication skills.

In particular, you will be required to -

- Have appropriate work experience, possibly in a Local Authority;
- Assist in the administration of and attend certain committees and social functions;
- Provide administration for the Mayor's Charity Fund raising and the Mayor's Committee;
- We offer good conditions in a modern office. You will also be responsible for supervising an assistant.

Telephone Jo Parillo on extension 2785 for details and an application form.

The closing date is 18th June 1987.

Harrow London Borough
an equal opportunity employer

IMMEDIATE TEMPORARY ASSIGNMENTS

FOR SECRETARIES

With 100/60 wpm and a working knowledge of word processors. Long or short term assignments available NOW.

Telephone 01-439 0601 NOW!

NEW SUMMER RATES

MacBlain NASH
Temporary Secretaries

Carrington House, 130 Regent Street, LONDON W1T 1PL: 01-439 0601 (Warner in Regent Place above Doris Avenue)

CITY P.A. £12K + Bens

Aged 25-28 Looking for an opportunity to prove your worth? This fast expanding and hugely impressive international company needs a truly talented P.A. with degree (or poss. 'A' levels) and good skills (90/60/WP) to assist a Director. Very interesting field of work.

GRADUATE £11,000++

Unrivalled opportunity for a graduate to join this major international FMCG company, based west of London. Working in a team environment the emphasis will be on administration. Excellent career prospects. Requirements: Typing/WP and about 12 months experience. German useful.

ADMIN/PA £10,500

A major force in the British computer market has several openings for bright experienced PA/assistants who enjoy the stimulus of a hectic environment. Supporting a Director you will also be responsible for supervising a junior. Age 28+. Promotion prospects can be good.

Plus many more vacancies offering salaries of £10,000-£13,500. Late appointments are always available.

GRADUATE APPOINTMENTS
7 PRINCES STREET W1 01-439 7282

SECRETARY/MKTG £9,000ish

This is a very lively marketing team environment where the high-profile work is of critical importance. You'll manage the PC using Multimate (with X train) and Lotus (will train). Lots of pre-occupations.

Call CLIVE KINGROSE 01 429 0777

Office Angels
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT BELGRAVIA To £12,000

This is your opportunity to play a major and vital part in the organisation of an exciting and dynamic new company. In your own large and elegant office you will be liaising with people at the highest level and as such will have a professional and mature attitude to your work. Your age will not be the deciding factor but your personality will.

Susan Beck RECRUITMENT 01-584 6242

Mary Overton PERSONNEL SEC/PA: THE VIEW FROM THE TOP

In new offices in a West One town, there's an air of the HQ of a vast group of companies which employs many thousands of people. Here a small executive team oversees the company's personnel policy. The team includes a Personnel Director who needs a Sec/PA. This could be you. If you have personnel admin experience, good typing and word processing skills, and speak the part, and want just about the best personal advancement opportunity going, call Mary Overton on 01-734 7282. Age 20+, no experience, a nice absorbing job, very well paid to boot.

MARY OVERTON RECRUITMENT LIMITED 35 PICCADILLY LONDON W1V 9PB 01-734 7282

PA WITH LANGUAGES £12,000 & Foreign Travel

A fantastic opportunity could be yours with this young dynamic company. As PA to the UK and Foreign Marketing Manager you will accompany him on his travels. Good opportunities for advancement. You will be responsible for organising exhibitions and travel arrangements but you will also be responsible for the day to day running of the office. If you are a self-starter and can cope with a fast pace of work, please call 01-439 0601.

JOYCE GUINNESS RECRUITMENT CONSULTANT 21 St James Avenue, Hammersmith, W6 7JH

Reach for the Stars

Deal personally with the no nonsense, forthright and funniest person you've ever met. You should be a second person to the stars. Good salary and benefits. Good advancement opportunities. Please call 01-589 8807.

JOYCE GUINNESS RECRUITMENT CONSULTANT 21 St James Avenue, Hammersmith, W6 7JH

THAT VITAL INGREDIENT to £15,000 - W1

Small Head Office of diversified holding company requires a charming senior secretary to provide excellent all round back-up to the Chairman and two of his colleagues. Working as a vital member of this close-knit, happy team, you will be responsible for ensuring the smooth running of all aspects of this busy office and providing full secretarial support to the team. Skills of 90/60/WP, good presentation and education and a discreet, mature, team spirited approach essential. Age 27-40. Superb offices. Please call 434 4512

Crone Corkill
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

CJES

Excellent training ground and first move into personnel

PERSONNEL ASSISTANT
WEST LONDON c£9,000

LEADING SPECIALIST PUBLISHING HOUSE

For this new appointment, which is due to an increasing workload in this expanding organisation, we invite applications from candidates in their early to mid-thirties, educated to 'A' level and with the confidence and ability to develop their responsibilities in a personnel and administrative role. Previous personnel experience is not necessary as full training will be given. Working with the Director and the Personnel Manager the responsibilities will be widely drawn and include the administration of personnel files and details of benefits (SHPA, STI, pension) and holiday/SSP records etc., and there will be some office management duties. Accurate typing is necessary (short-hand useful) for correspondence and future compilation of the personnel function. Initial remuneration will be negotiable dependent on age and experience c£9,000 + good company benefits. Applications in strict confidence under reference LSPH98/TT to the Managing Director.

CAMPBELL, JOHNSTON EXECUTIVE SECRETARIES LIMITED (RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS), 3 LONDON WALL BUILDINGS, LONDON WALL, LONDON EC2M 6PJ. TELEPHONE: 01-588 3588 OR 01-588 3576. TELEX: 887374. FAX: 01-256 8501

CALLING

Temporary Executive Secretaries

Our clients are constantly calling for senior level people with good shorthand typing and knowledge of at least one WP to facilitate cross training. We generally offer highest rates and conditions, regularly reviewed, commensurate with your overall experience and capabilities. On offer are attractive executive level assignments - that's a promise - backed up by our well known reputation for a caring and professional approach.

With up to £7.80 per hour - an excellent package is only a phone call away, contact Vanessa or Vanessa at 01-589 8807

JOYCE GUINNESS
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS 21 St James Avenue, Hammersmith, W6 7JH

medial

SINCE 1st July 1986 Amanda Fene has been joined by Carolyn Cowdery, Gill Glendenning, Sarah Hamber, Emma Lloyd, Juliet Staylor and Jane Iveson.

On 1st June 1987 Medial moved to:

**FINLAND HOUSE
56 HAYMARKET
LONDON
SW1Y 4RN**

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our candidates and clients for contributing to our success.

KIDS CHARITY SECRETARY

We need an adaptable and dynamic person with excellent typing, shorthand and secretarial skills to provide administrative and secretarial services in our small appeals office. The post requires accuracy and a methodical approach, and applicants should be able to deal efficiently with outside contacts at all levels. Word Processing skills an advantage (cross training given).

Salary £9,785 - £10,611 pa, 5 weeks holiday

Apply with CV to John Mulcahy, KIDS, 80 Waynflete Square, London W10 6UD. Tel: 01-969 2817.

Closing date 12 June 1987.

The Kids Centre is close to Latimer Road tube station.

TM

NEW BUSINESS £14,000 + Company Perks.

Our client, a large international company, are looking for a top PA/Secretary for their Director of New Business. Your day-to-day duties will include telephone work with clients in the United Kingdom and United States, extensive travel arrangements and itineraries, the organisation and logging of meetings as well as the usual secretarial back-up. You'll need to be c.22, educated to 'A' level standard, be bright, quick and on the ball. Speeds 100/60. Age 25.

FILM STARS W1 £12,000

This well known company who are agents and legal advisors to the world's best film and pop stars, are looking for a bright, capable and highly confident young secretary/PA. You must be able to deal with people at the highest levels, have tact and diplomacy, be able to arrange meetings throughout Europe and work to impossible deadlines. Speeds 100/60. Age 25. Please call us for an interview until 6.30pm

PERSONAL ASSISTANT £9,500 - £10,000

Interesting and rewarding mixture of administrative and secretarial assistance to one boss who heads a staff of 30.

We require someone with good secretarial skills, literacy and education who is also enthusiastic and meticulous.

Please telephone Mrs P A Stanley on 01 636 8192

**INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL
LABORATORY SCIENCES**
12 Queen Anne Street, London W1M 0AU

A WINNING PERSONALITY

...could earn you £12,000 in your first year plus an excellent training, £7,000 negotiable regulated earnings scheme, early management opportunities and the backing of a £4 billion international group. If you have drive, initiative, good communication skills, it's an excellent career move - take it. Phone for details.

01-222 1363

EXPERIENCED SECRETARY 20+ £8,000

Required by international company based in Piccadilly to work with our busy sales team. Travel expenses, customer liaison etc. An outgoing and well organised person with accurate typing and a knowledge of the office. Salary plus 10% BNP, 4 weeks holiday and 21L.

Call Miss S. Hester on 01 924 5811 or send CV to: Michelle Dring, 140, 142, 144, 146, 148, 150, 152, 154, 156, 158, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 172, 174, 176, 178, 180, 182, 184, 186, 188, 190, 192, 194, 196, 198, 200, 202, 204, 206, 208, 210, 212, 214, 216, 218, 220, 222, 224, 226, 228, 230, 232, 234, 236, 238, 240, 242, 244, 246, 248, 250, 252, 254, 256, 258, 260, 262, 264, 266, 268, 270, 272, 274, 276, 278, 280, 282, 284, 286, 288, 290, 292, 294, 296, 298, 300, 302, 304, 306, 308, 310, 312, 314, 316, 318, 320, 322, 324, 326, 328, 330, 332, 334, 336, 338, 340, 342, 344, 346, 348, 350, 352, 354, 356, 358, 360, 362, 364, 366, 368, 370, 372, 374, 376, 378, 380, 382, 384, 386, 388, 390, 392, 394, 396, 398, 400, 402, 404, 406, 408, 410, 412, 414, 416, 418, 420, 422, 424, 426, 428, 430, 432, 434, 436, 438, 440, 442, 444, 446, 448, 450, 452, 454, 456, 458, 460, 462, 464, 466, 468, 470, 472, 474, 476, 478, 480, 482, 484, 486, 488, 490, 492, 494, 496, 498, 500, 502, 504, 506, 508, 510, 512, 514, 516, 518, 520, 522, 524, 526, 528, 530, 532, 534, 536, 538, 540, 542, 544, 546, 548, 550, 552, 554, 556, 558, 560, 562, 564, 566, 568, 570, 572, 574, 576, 578, 580, 582, 584, 586, 588, 590, 592, 594, 596, 598, 600, 602, 604, 606, 608, 610, 612, 614, 616, 618, 620, 622, 624, 626, 628, 630, 632, 634, 636, 638, 640, 642, 644, 646, 648, 650, 652, 654, 656, 658, 660, 662, 664, 666, 668, 670, 672, 674, 676, 678, 680, 682, 684, 686, 688, 690, 692, 694, 696, 698, 700, 702, 704, 706, 708, 710, 712, 714, 716, 718, 720, 722, 724, 726, 728, 730, 732, 734, 736, 738, 740, 742, 744, 746, 748, 750, 752, 754, 756, 758, 760, 762, 764, 766, 768, 770, 772, 774, 776, 778, 780, 782, 784, 786, 788, 790, 792, 794, 796, 798, 800, 802, 804, 806, 808, 810, 812, 814, 816, 818, 820, 822, 824, 826, 828, 830, 832, 834, 836, 838, 840, 842, 844, 846, 848, 850, 852, 854, 856, 858, 860, 862, 864, 866, 868, 870, 872, 874, 876, 878, 880, 882, 884, 886, 888, 890, 892, 894, 896, 898, 900, 902, 904, 906, 908, 910, 912, 914, 916, 918, 920, 922, 924, 926, 928, 930, 932, 934, 936, 938, 940, 942, 944, 946, 948, 950, 952, 954, 956, 958, 960, 962, 964, 966, 968, 970, 972, 974, 976, 978, 980, 982, 984, 986, 988, 990, 992, 994, 996, 998, 1000.

TIMBER GROWERS
ADMO/WP/SECRETARY
Salary £3 - £9,500 p.a.

Bright, intelligent secretary to work for a company in the timber industry. Good opportunities for advancement. Good salary and benefits. Please contact: Jenny Pearson 01 225 285 for immediate interview.

ARCHITECTS

2nd jobber required for MD's PA. Fast paced and good salary of £10,000. Good benefits. Call LSL Rec Care 482-1084/489 0758.

OLYMPIA EXHIBITIONS CENTRE requires Hall Director's secretary

Manage public secretary with commercial experience to become involved in running exhibition centre, client liaison etc.

Send CV to: Jane Pope, Personnel Officer, Empire Court Exhibitions Centre, Warwick Road SW5 9TA.

ADVERTISING £11,000

MD and executive of a fast growing agency require a PA/Secretary to work in a fast paced and dynamic environment. Good salary and benefits. Please call 01 353 5821.

FASHION FABRICS
ADMIN ASSISTANT
W1 £9,000

The client is a leading fashion house. The PA/Secretary will be responsible for the day to day running of the office. Good salary and benefits. Please call 01 439 0601.

PA WITH LANGUAGES £12,000 & Foreign Travel

A fantastic opportunity could be yours with this young dynamic company. As PA to the UK and Foreign Marketing Manager you will accompany him on his travels. Good opportunities for advancement. You will be responsible for organising exhibitions and travel arrangements but you will also be responsible for the day to day running of the office. If you are a self-starter and can cope with a fast pace of work, please call 01-439 0601.

JOYCE GUINNESS RECRUITMENT CONSULTANT 21 St James Avenue, Hammersmith, W6 7JH

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DRAKE PERSONNEL

PRESTIGIOUS FRENCH PA £11,000

Join this dynamic company based in Piccadilly as PA to the Chairman and Managing Director. This could be you. If you have French speaking skills, good typing and word processing skills, and speak the part, and want just about the best personal advancement opportunity going, call Drake Personnel on 01-734 7282. Age 20+, no experience, a nice absorbing job, very well paid to boot.

DRAKE PERSONNEL RECRUITMENT LIMITED 35 PICCADILLY LONDON W1V 9PB 01-734 7282

DRAKE PERSONNEL

ADMINISTRATIVE PA £12,000

Utilise your excellent organisational and administrative skills when you join the young dynamic international company. Based in a prestigious West End office you will be responsible for the day to day running of the office. Good salary and benefits. Please call 01-589 8807.

JOYCE GUINNESS RECRUITMENT CONSULTANT 21 St James Avenue, Hammersmith, W6 7JH

£12,000 + per annum

Intelligent, level-headed PA urgently required for Chairman/Managing Director of small but very up market property investment company in W8. Minimum 5 years' experience at Director level.

Excellent working conditions and plenty of scope to develop and progress within the company.

Please write enclosing CV to Miss G.S. 01-631 0479.

DRAKE PERSONNEL RECRUITMENT LIMITED 35 PICCADILLY LONDON W1V 9PB 01-734 7282

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OLYMPIA EXHIBITIONS CENTRE requires Hall Director's secretary

Manage public secretary with commercial experience to become involved in running exhibition centre, client liaison etc.

Send CV to: Jane Pope, Personnel Officer, Empire Court Exhibitions Centre, Warwick Road SW5 9TA.

ADVERTISING £11,000

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ADMIN ASSISTANT
W1 £9,000

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SECRETARY
ADMINISTRATIVE
DIRECTOR
PA
RECRUITMENT
CONSULTANTS
21 ST JAMES AVENUE
HAMMERS

ANGELA MORTIMER

LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

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Do you find the world of property interesting? We have a variety of opportunities if you do. Big companies or small, West End or City, Commercial or residential, we've got them. Good organisational and secretarial skills, the ability to work with other people and communicate will qualify you for these exciting jobs. Some experience with minutes helpful. Age 25-30.

01-499 0092

Senior Secretaries



COSMOPOLITAN TEAM WORK c. £11,500

One of London's most go-ahead Merchant Teams, based in the West End, is currently seeking 2 lively, very well-presented, efficient secretaries aged 22+, one as a Syndicate Secretary to work for a charming French boss, and one as a 'Trader's' Secretary, using French and Spanish. Both posts offer excellent terms and conditions, and each is an unmissable opportunity for the right person.

01-499 0092

Senior Secretaries



INVESTMENT £10,000 neg

A young go-ahead group of public school-educated men are looking for a similar type secretary to assist them. The atmosphere is friendly, the work exciting and the opportunities are there to gain good secretarial skills, an interest in investments and a lively and friendly manner are essential qualifications. If the above is a description of you please telephone us today. Age 21-23.

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Senior Secretaries



TEMPORARY SENIOR SECRETARIES

Your high calibre secretarial experience including shorthand and typing skills are what our clients are looking for on both a temporary and permanent basis. Age is immaterial but work experience, particularly in the City, is essential. We have a number of Displaywriter, IBM Displaywriter 3 and IBM Selectric 1000 typewriters in stock to offer you high rates (forwarded regularly), a superior level of benefits and a caring and professional service.

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Senior Secretaries



ESTATE AGENTS c. £11,000

Two leading residential estate agents in Knightsbridge and South Kensington require enthusiastic, mature secretaries to work for a partner and his small team. If you have a flexible approach and can cope with everything in a busy office, aged 22-35, with skills of 90/80, please ring us.

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Senior Secretaries



FREELANCE HOUSE SECRETARY

Confident that your Secretarial skills are good enough to work at all levels in the world's largest hotel and catering organisations?

Then Trusthouse Forte have a challenging opportunity for an experienced Secretary to work at Group Head Office in High Holborn and at Piccadilly Circus. All assignments would be on a temporary basis and you would be regarded as self-employed.

The work will be at various levels from Junior Management to Board Director and in a range of Departments which include legal, administration and financial.

Applicants must be well presented and have several years experience with good Secretarial skills including Shorthand and Audio. A knowledge of Word Processing, particularly Multitext, would be an advantage.

Flexibility will be an important asset to adapt to the requirements of the various Departments and the ability to communicate at all levels is essential.

If this challenge appeals to you, please send your career and personal details to Pauline Lincoln, Trusthouse Forte PLC, 12 Sherwood Street, London W1V 7TD. (NO AGENCIES).



Trusthouse Forte PLC

Crone Corkill temps always fit in
£7.50p.h.

Everyone with the same skills is paid this rate.

Our temporary team has established an excellent reputation over the past 10 years. It isn't really surprising. We take great care to ensure the right person is in the right assignment. Your skills and work experience, journey and personality are all thoughtfully pieced together to produce a complete picture so that you can make the most of your assignments.

You will need speeds of 100/80, 2 years' Director level experience in Central London (or a comparable capital city) and good WP skills.

Ring us now to join the team, and we'll make sure you're never a square peg in a round hole! 01-454 4812.

Crone Corkill

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

Professional recruitment
as dedicated to your career as you are.

In the West End

SUITED TO ADMIN?

Progress to a career in Personnel/Office Admin. with this international textile company. They have a superb opportunity for someone with proven secretarial experience who is looking to take their first step away from a totally secretarial position. Their Staff Manager requires a capable admin. secretary to take on much of the personnel/office

admin. function. Front line recruitment of staff will be one of your duties, along with organising in-house training programmes, ordering office equipment and dealing with any day-to-day problems. The ideal applicant will be a creative thinker with the ability to eventually manage and organise a small dept. Skills 80/50. Age 21-25. Salary c. £9,500.

FINESSE
APPOINTMENTS

01-499 9175

Go for Brokers! £13,000

Senior Secretary, 27+, for the 'clever, demanding, humorous' Head of Commodities with a major Stockbrokers in the City. An upmarket environment - shorthand + WP.

Audio Challenge £11,500

Please organise the Investment Partner of a major W1 Property Co/Estate Agent. He's a young 'Old Harrovian' who loves to delegate.

SECRETARIES PLUS

Positively Personnel! £15,000+

You have personnel/recruiting skills, a natural enthusiasm for life and a positive attitude. Your hard work and expertise will earn you job satisfaction and excellent financial rewards as a consultant with Secretaries Plus or WordPlus, our expanding specialist secretariat and WP divisions. Call Lyn Cecil on 077 8900.

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No shorthand needed as PA to the Company Secretary of a reinsurance brokers in EC3. He deals with personnel and co admin. and needs someone A level standard, 24+ with WP and maybe audio skills.

INTERNATIONAL HOSPITALS GROUP

PA for Managing Director

Our Managing Director's PA is about to leave for the best of reasons.

To replace her will be difficult but if you have previous experience at board level, excellent secretarial skills, diplomacy and the flexibility which is required in meeting the needs of this interesting and demanding role please write to me, providing full details of your career and qualifications.

In return, we offer all the benefits you would expect from an international company together with free BUPA medical cover.

Jeff Webb, Personnel Manager, International Hospitals Group, Stoke Park, Stoke Poges, Slough, Berkshire SL2 4NS.

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This French company owns hotels worldwide in addition to restaurant, catering and brewing interests. The Development Director is opening up the British operation and needs a PA with proven senior-level experience. A high level of liaison with Head Office means you need fluent French - both oral and written. Working one-to-one, you should have the capacity for close, detailed involvement and the confidence to take the initiative in his absence. Excellent skills, presentation, and poise? Age 23-40? Please call 01-493 5787 for further details.

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COLLEGE TO CAREER

Monday
8th June

An opportunity to
fill your College
Leaver vacancies.

To advertise

Call: 01 481 4481

OGILVY AND MATHER ADVERTISING AGENCY SECRETARIAL OPENINGS

My client, Ogilvy and Mather, the prestigious international agency near Covent Garden, are seeking two secretaries, both in account handling divisions. The first one might be a college leaver with good skills or somebody with up to a year's experience, and the successful applicant can expect £8,000 + very good perks.

The second is for a senior person (no shorthand is necessary) working for one of a company's Directors. Salary is £10,000 + perks.

Apply in the first instance to Daniel Lewis

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If only we'd had a secretary from Senior Secretaries!

Marketing and Admin Coordinator £12,000 +

If you have a flair for communicating with people and can combine this with administrative ability, we can offer a real career opportunity. Promoting this well known business centre, you will handle all enquiries and organise seminars and lunches. You will also be responsible for the smooth running of the office and your department's budget as well as organising and attending regular administrative meetings. A-level plus education.

Age 25-35
50+ wpm typing

**RECRUITMENT GARRICK STREET
COMPANY LTD** COVENT GARDEN
TEL: 01-531 1220

SECRETARY TO SALES DIRECTOR

An opening has arisen in this West End Fashion company for a Secretary to the Retail Sales Director.

The Sales Director is responsible for retail operations, including branch profitability, site acquisition and development, display and visual merchandising. As Secretary you will need 8/11 and typing of 90/50 wpm, possess high organisational skills and a positive and confidential approach to your work.

We are offering a competitive salary, generous personal discounts, contributory pension scheme, subsidised staff restaurant and 4 weeks holiday p.a. Telephone 01-434 0162 Ext 298 for an application form or write to Viyella Personnel Department, 57 Broadwick Street, London W1V 1FU

Viyella

Personal Assistant to the Director (Ref A125/NT)

SALARY: £10,335-£14,369

The Polytechnic's new Director needs a Personal Assistant with experience of director - level work, preferably in the educational sphere. Applicants should have excellent secretarial skills including shorthand and the ability to deal effectively with the Director's varied internal and external contacts.

Application forms and further details are obtainable from the Personnel Office, The Polytechnic, North London, Holloway Road, London N7 8SD. Telephone 01-639 9813 (24 hour answering service).

Closing date for the receipt of applications is: 17/6/87.

P-N-L
THE POLYTECHNIC OF
NORTH LONDON

NATIONAL INTERACTIVE VIDEO CENTRE

PERSONAL ASSISTANT

Following expansion of the Centre and its move to newly refurbished premises, a PA with excellent secretarial and organisational skills is required to work with the Director. An ability to liaise with top level executives and to work on own initiative is essential. Salary £10-11,000.

Please reply with full CV to Mr Angus Douglas, National Interactive Video Centre, 24 Stephenson Way, London NW1 2SD 01-887 2222

SUCCESS STORY CIRCA £10,000

A young secretary is urgently required by a Sales Director/Finance Director who is planning to buy a large company in the UK. You might soon find yourself in the Director's office but ideally you will be working out of his London home, acquiring a PC, establishing systems, liaising with his financial and legal advisors and helping his wife and children set up home.

He is very enthusiastic, very demanding and not entirely conventional. You must be confident, flexible and organised, used to dealing with stress and, ideally, preferably speak French. This job would suit someone very capable, who enjoys working in an international business environment without necessarily wanting a large office.

AGE 25-35
SKILLS 80/50 + WP
WEST END OFFICE
01-629 9686

ANGELA MORTIMER

MONT BLANC £10,000 - £12,000

A young secretary is urgently required by a Sales Director/Finance Director who is planning to buy a large company in the UK. You might soon find yourself in the Director's office but ideally you will be working out of his London home, acquiring a PC, establishing systems, liaising with his financial and legal advisors and helping his wife and children set up home.

AGE 25-35
SKILLS 80/50 + WP
WEST END OFFICE
01-629 9686

ANGELA MORTIMER

BROKING BONANZA to £12,000

Jobs this internationally renowned firm of stockbrokers as senior secretary in the private client department. You will deal with various PA duties and will liaise with the press as well as providing full secretarial support. 60 wpm typing and WP experience required. Benefits include a free house.

**NO SHORTHAND
£11,500 + mortgage subsidy**

This prestigious merchant bank requires an experienced audio secretary to assist 2 young executives in corporate finance. A full and varied role in a very friendly department where your talents will be recognised.

Please telephone 01 240 3551

Elizabeth Hunt

Recruitment Consultants
2 Bow Lane London EC4

ARTS SPONSORSHIP

Recently appointed Director of Sponsorship in world famous arts organisation needs a PA to assist in all aspects of this exciting new job. The successful applicant will have well developed communication skills, good secretarial and admin ability and the social flair and confidence to deal with artists and musicians as well as top level corporate sponsors. A PR/Marketing background would be a plus for this rare opportunity in arts sponsorship. Salary £25,000

01-493 0238
JUDY FISHER
ASSOCIATES
Recruitment Consultants

COUNTRY HOUSES ASSOCIATION

Is seeking an experienced
SECRETARY/PA

for the Chief Executive of an expanding registered charity concerned with the restoration and preservation of important houses.

This is a varied and interesting position and an attractive salary and pension scheme will be offered to a suitable candidate. Shorthand not necessary but WP experience essential.

NON-SMOKER
Please send C.V. to R.D. BRATBY Esq.
COUNTRY HOUSES ASSOCIATION
41 KINGSWAY, LONDON WC2B 6SL

MULTILINGUAL SERVICES

Recruitment Consultants

GERMANY: Frankfurt area: Bilingual Secretary with good conversational German to work for European Director and Marketing Manager at the marketing-orientated European HQ of a US company. We are looking for someone in their mid twenties to early thirties, who is of English mother tongue with English shorthand, and who has a good business background. Salary will vary according to age and experience, from about £11,000 to £15,000 and over. The company will move from Frankfurt to a very desirable small town within commuting distance in the Autumn.

LONDON: PORTUGUESE, ITALIAN, SPANISH and FRENCH. We have four (and more) interesting and varied PA/secretarial jobs for senior people with impeccable English and good English shorthand, who are very fluent on one of the above and able to handle up to date office equipment. Salaries in the £11,000 - £12,000 area (lots more for some of the French jobs) with some tempting extras too.

01 836 3794
22 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0HR

ELECTRA INVESTMENT TRUST P.L.C.

Second Secretary to both
Chairman and Chief Executive

Second secretary required to work in close liaison with present secretaries to share very varied and pressurised workload in prestigious WC2 office.

This is a responsible position and applicants must be well groomed, well spoken and have good knowledge of office and social procedure. Min. 100/65 Pitmans shorthand and typing. WP exp. useful. Age immaterial but previous secretarial exp. essential.

Hours 10.30am - 6.30pm. Generous salary a.s.e. plus package to include mortgage subsidy, free BUPA, travel allowance, etc.

Applications in writing (with photograph if poss.) to

Miss M Scully,
Electra Investment Trust P.L.C.,
Electra House, Temple Place,
London WC2R 3HP.

SECRETARY

As a secretary in the Advertising Control Division, you will have a varied and interesting job which will utilise all your secretarial skills.

Advertising is a demanding environment and therefore you must be competent in both shorthand and typing, have previous secretarial experience, a good telephone manner and be willing to use a W.P.

Salary range £7825 - £9545, plus excellent benefits.

Please send full CV to
Sally Long,
Assistant Personnel Officer,
Independent Broadcasting Authority,
70 Brompton Road,
London SW3 1EY

by 11th June, 1987.

An Equal Opportunities Employer

Am I Dreaming?...

£11,000 plus perks

YES, it is possible to work in Knightsbridge, with really nice people, thoroughly enjoy your fascinating job and have excellent career prospects... If you are keen to move down the typing and tone up the involvement... this could be the job for you. Plenty of people contact and responsibility in an environment that is literally buzzing with activity and bright people can only be a recipe for success. So, if you have good typing and plenty of oomph and are 21+, please telephone 01-493 5787.

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PR Livewire!

£8,500 + + +

Young, dynamic and professional? Then this fabulous, high-flying young PR outfit won't get to know you. Great 'buzz' atmosphere, with fast pace and total involvement guaranteed. Regular business meetings, sports and social club ensure good communications throughout. Quarterly 15-20% bonuses. Want to get involved in success? Age 20-23 with good typing? Call now on 01-493 4466.

MERRYWEATHER ADVERTISING & SELECTION

MERRYWEATHER

SALES ADMINISTRATOR WITH GERMAN

c.£10,000
a.s.e

International company west of London needs an efficient administrator for the Sales and Marketing Department to liaise with their factories in Germany.

Initiative and good word-processing skills coupled with good German are necessary for this challenging position. Age: mid 20's. (Rec. Cons.)

International Secretaries

USA - \$40,000

Subsidiary of London business, situated in West Coast of U.S.A. requires outstanding secretary/PA to monitor their operations and liaise with London.

A good business background is essential and the commitment is for a minimum period of 18 months.

Please write in confidence enclosing your Curriculum Vitae to: Stella Boyd-Carpenter, Directors' Secretaries Ltd, 27 Old Bond Street, London W1X 3AA

DIRECTORS' SECRETARIES
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS
01-629 9923

A past Prime Minister helps *The Times* mark MCC's bicentenary with memories of 66 years

The Front Bench tribute to Lord's



LORD HOME of The Hirsel, a cricket enthusiast, recalls great players and sportsmanship

Nostalgia is a dangerous drug, but anyone who has played on Lord's cricket ground can be excused for indulging in it, for it is the Mecca of cricketers, and those faithful to the game feel a compulsion to return even if only in memory.

In particular I vividly recall the year 1921. It was a summer in which the sun shone for months on end. I was playing for the first time for Eton against Harrow, and English cricket was gradually rebuilding itself after the casualties of four years of war. To add to the excitement Warwick Armstrong had brought a talented side from Australia to challenge England.

The Public Schools then could field some promising players. G. O. Allen, R. Aird, G. T. S. Stevens, C. H. Knott, L. G. Crawley and W. W. Hill-Wood are only a sample, all of whom were to make their mark in the first-class game. The reasons for the high standard were the emphasis put on professional coaching. At Eton we had George Hirst, and there was nothing that he did not know about every department of cricket. He taught boys to bowl and to field (in 1921 there were more than 20,000 at the Eton and Harrow match), while no one in those days taught us that competitive games were bad for the soul.

I have one recollection which is unfortunately likely to be irrevocably dated.

All that summer of hard wickets I fielded at first slip to Gubby Allen, to whom Mervyn Hill, our wicketkeeper, stood up to the wicket, as did Strudwick to Tate. No wicketkeeper would or could do that nowadays, which is a pity because a "take" or a catch on the leg side, or on rare occasions a stumping, was one of the most exciting sights of the game. The reason which encouraged the talented to stand up to the wicket was of course that then the pace or swing bowlers concentrated their attack on the middle and the off, and a ball down the leg side was positively bad form.

That led to the batsman employing the straight and cover drives and the square and late cuts as his main line of attack, and thus supply the spectators with the maximum aesthetic enjoyment. The development of leg-theory bowling and the re-setting of the on-side field has certainly rucked up the batsmen since then.

It was at Lord's in 1921 that I first saw the partnership of pace bowlers J. M. Gregory and F. A. McDonald. The former tall and broad



Lord of the ring: Lord Home, then Lord Dunglass, pulls to the boundary for Eton against Harrow in 1922 and (right) Sir Jack Hobbs, his ultimate player for efficiency of strokeplay

My special vintage of batsmen

I was lucky enough to see both Jack Hobbs and Walter Hammond make big scores at Lord's. Hobbs, with his uncanny ability to anticipate the length and pace and flight and spin of the ball bowled, which put him in a position to play apparently at leisure the stroke which the delivery deserved. For tidy efficiency and accurate placing of the ball between the

fielders he was unmatched.

Hammond, by contrast, the personification of active pugnacity, with every stroke in the book, harassing the fielders all over the ground. They were incomparable stylists.

All comparisons are odious, but I think that if I had to award the palm for style to one of that vintage it would have to go to Frank Woolley. It is perhaps unfair, but where a left-hander is in the top rank he always seems to have been endowed by the gods with an extra ration of grace.

Woolley had all of that, but he also had the power. Time and again in a big innings his driven would crash against the pavilion rails, or sail over the boundary as if jet-propelled.

played exactly on its merits, and with the middle of the bat, and very few were in the air. Indeed, had it not been for A. P. F. Chapman's telescopic arm shooting out at point to catch the ball inches off the ground, it is probable that Bradman's score would have been even bigger.

It was, too, from the pavilion at Lord's that I saw what must count as one of the most remarkable strokes ever made there. G. O. Allen was bowling at his fastest. This particular ball barely, if at all, short of a length, reared up and Leerie Constantine lay back and cut it square over cover point far up into the grandstand under the feet of Father Time.

Constantine compared with any of the famous all-rounders. In the field he would pounce like a cat, and woe betide any batsman who thought he could steal a short single.

Much the most serious crisis which has struck cricket in the last 200 years was undoubtedly the unique combination of accuracy and pace commanded by Larwood. No one has been able to repeat that, which is merciful, but it would be a mistake to think that cricket in that respect is out of the wood when young and tall and lithe and athletic

West Indians bowl bouncers and steal a foot or two extra distance before the umpire can collect his wits to call "no-ball". The result is a delivery which travels about as fast as the sight of the eyes can see. And when the batsman is simultaneously engaged in saving his head, inevitably the game is changed for the worse, and for the spectators most of all.

There have been a somewhat feverish diversion in the introduction of the limited overs one-day match. It caters for those who crave for instant excitement; it brings in the money, and the hectic fielding compels the fielders into prodigies of athleticism. We should not be ungrateful, but it is a caricature of the real game.

I rather think that the answer lies with the assertion of authority by the captains, and the strict application of the rules by the umpire, and self-discipline by the players. When these three elements coincide I will happily throw away nostalgia and look forward to another double century by Lord's.

TOMORROW

David Frith, the editor of *Wisden Cricket Monthly*, looks at the men in the Long Room

ATHLETICS

Coe heads British challenge in the European Cup

Schastian Coe will spearhead Britain's challenge at the European Cup in Prague later this month. The double Olympic champion runs in the 1,500 metres at the team event as the replacement for the world champion, Steve Cram, who had earlier indicated he did not want to compete.

Coe is the most illustrious addition to the list of athletes pre-selected for Prague as the selectors gradually assemble a high-quality squad in an attempt to surpass their previous best placing - third - in the competition.

European 800 metres champion Coe will be joined by another quarter of Stuttgart gold medal winners, Linford Christie (100 metres), Daley Thompson (long jump and 4 x 100 metres relay), Fatima Whitbread (javelin), and Roger Black (4 x 400 metres relay). Other big names have been attracted because they will be assured of selection for the World Championships in Rome if they finish in the top two of their particular event in Prague.

Tom McKean, the European silver medal winner, goes in the 800 metres. Colin Jackson, the world junior champion, in the sprint hurdles. Tim Hutchings,

the European bronze medal winner, in the 5,000 metres, and Kirsty Wade, the double Commonwealth champion in the women's 1,500 metres.

Sanderson offered improved pay deal

Tessa Sanderson, the Olympic javelin champion, has called off her threatened strike, after reaching an agreement with British athletics administrators. She had vowed not to throw in Britain this summer because of the recently announced subvention package she was "priced" at just £1,000 per meeting, compared with the £10,000 being offered to Fatima Whitbread.

TEAM: MEN: 100 metres: L. Christie (Thames Valley); 200 metres: T. McKean (Stuttgart); 400 metres: S. Cram (Harrow); 800 metres: J. Hutchings (Gravelly); 1,000 metres: J. Solly (Barnby); 1,500 metres: S. Cram (Harrow); 2,000 metres: J. Solly (Barnby); 2,500 metres: J. Solly (Barnby); 3,000 metres: J. Solly (Barnby); 3,500 metres: J. Solly (Barnby); 4,000 metres: J. Solly (Barnby); 4,500 metres: J. Solly (Barnby); 5,000 metres: J. Solly (Barnby); 5,500 metres: J. Solly (Barnby); 6,000 metres: J. Solly (Barnby); 6,500 metres: J. Solly (Barnby); 7,000 metres: J. Solly (Barnby); 7,500 metres: J. Solly (Barnby); 8,000 metres: J. Solly (Barnby); 8,500 metres: J. Solly (Barnby); 9,000 metres: J. Solly (Barnby); 9,500 metres: J. Solly (Barnby); 10,000 metres: J. Solly (Barnby); 10,500 metres: J. Solly (Barnby); 11,000 metres: J. Solly (Barnby); 11,500 metres: J. Solly (Barnby); 12,000 metres: J. Solly (Barnby); 12,500 metres: J. Solly (Barnby); 13,000 metres: J. 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Stewart gives Morris trial run

John Morris, the Derbyshire batsman, has been called up to practise with England's Test squad at Old Trafford tomorrow.

Mickey Stewart, England's team manager, said Morris's visit to Manchester would help him get used to the international set-up.

It continues the policy begun when the Nottinghamshire pair, Capel and Bailey, practised with the Test squad at the Oval two weeks ago.

Morris, who played for the MCC against Essex in April and who scored 1,739 runs last season, has no county fixture until Saturday.

He will be taking part in the practice sessions and also staying with the team, before leaving on Friday to rejoin the Derbyshire side.

The 23-year-old right-hand batsman said: "Although I have not played as well as I can this season, this shows the selectors are still aware of me. It will also prove invaluable if I was chosen to play in the future. I think it is a great idea for young players to be introduced to this sort of occasion and I am looking forward to it."

Graham Dilley, the England fast bowler, who is suffering from a side strain, was due to contact Stewart after having treatment at Worcester yesterday.

But Stewart would not name a replacement for Dilley should the Worcestershire player pull out. "We are taking things one step at a time," he said.

Chris Broad, the injured Nottinghamshire and England opening batsman, sees a specialist in Nottingham today for an examination on the thumb injury which has put him out of the first Test. Broad hopes to be fit in time for the second Test.

Greenidge out

Gordon Greenidge, the West Indian batsman, is to have an exploratory operation on his right knee next week, to discover the cause of an injury which has troubled him for six months.

Greenidge, aged 36, will have key-hole surgery to detect the extent of the injury.

The Hampshire opener said: "I think it is just wear and tear. Bits of bone have flaked over the years."

Greenidge should be out of action for a week, unless immediate surgery is required.

Play dissolved

The Britannic Assurance County Championship suffered its first blank day of the season, and the first since May 21 last year, as rain washed out the entire programme.

The end came when umpires Plews and Leadbeater called a halt to Yorkshire's game against Nottinghamshire at Notts.

Reference Point has £10m riding on him in Derby

By Michael Seely

Steve Cauthen and Reference Point, the 6-4 favourite, stood poised yesterday to deliver a £10 million knockout punch to the proprietors of Britain's 10,000 betting shops on the eve of the 208th running of the Derby at Epsom.

Estimating the possible loss to the bookmakers as the punters seek to take their revenge for the defeat of Dancing Brave by Shahrastani in 1986, Mike Dillon, of Ladbrokes, said: "The ante-post gamble on Reference Point is by far and away the biggest since Shergar romped home by 10 lengths at 11-10 on in 1981."

"The backers went in at 66-1 before his first race at Sandown and they have never stopped coming at us. Even when we knocked his price out to 7-1, after his sinus operation, they continued to attack us. It is all the general public's money and they were proved right when he won the Mecca-Dante Stakes at York."

Nationwide £30 million will be wagered on the great race, about the same amount as is bet on the Grand National, the only other occasion on which the country's attention is switched to horse racing.

"The only other serious

money in the past week has been for Sadiyd, the French horse. Our firm alone has laid him to lose £500,000.

"The odds will seem pretty unattractive to the average punter. But the likely starting price will probably be determined by Steve Cauthen. The public seem to have taken him to their hearts since Lester Piggott retired."

Although Cauthen has a long way to go before equalling the legendary Piggott's all-

time record of nine Epsom Derby winners, the 28-year-old Kentucky-born jockey has been riding with the simplicity of genius as he and Henry Cecil, Reference Point's trainer, have been carrying all before them in the build-up.

At stake this afternoon as 250,000 racegoers throng the Downs and pack the stands will not only be the destination of the £267,600 first prize, but also the millions of pounds in stallion values.

If Reference Point is successful, Louis Freedman the favourite's owner-breeder and Sir Gordon White, the

sponsor of the Ever Ready Derby who recently bought a quarter share in the colt, will find themselves richer to the tune of more than £10 million.

The burning question is whether Reference Point has the powers of acceleration necessary to qualify for superstar status.

Yesterday Vincent O'Brien, one of the greatest trainers in the history of the sport, with six Derby winners to his credit, highlighted the problem.

"Judged on the evidence to date, Reference Point appears to be a resolute galloper rather than a quickener. But he is bound to have derived benefit from his race at York."

Apart from the rather disappointing Adjal, the only other candidate likely to prove himself to be possessed of the ability to beat his rivals for finishing speed is Sadiyd, who is out to give the Aga Khan his third win in the past seven years.

LATEST BETTING: 6-4 Reference Point, 8-1 Sadiyd, 10-1 Legal Sea, 10-1 Belduro, 14-1 Emerald, 16-1 Scott Knight, 20-1 Groom Dancer, 20-1 Most Welcome, 25-1 Love The Groom, 40-1 Mountain Kingdom, 50-1 Ben Boy, 50-1 Harry Lewis, 60-1 Angara Abyss, 65-1 Gold King, 100-1 Western Business, 100-1 Prince, 100-1 Alwast.

Teenagers provide women's pairings with a unique look

From Rex Bellamy, Tennis Correspondent, Paris

The French Championships have produced presumably unique pairings for the women's singles semi-finals: one will be between players in their thirties and the other between teenagers. Gabriela Sabatini must play Steffi Graf, who has won all their six matches in the past two years.

The other match features Chris Evert and Martina Navratilova, who have been playing each other since 1973. Miss Navratilova leads 37-34, but Miss Evert has won all three of their French finals — including, in 1985, the greatest women's match I have ever seen.

Yesterday Miss Graf and Miss Sabatini, having just together before going to war, justified their second seeding in the doubles by beating two more teenagers, Isabel Cueto and Arantxa Sanchez, by 7-6, 6-0. But more serious, if less entertaining, business was afoot in the centre court.

Miss Evert had a 6-2, 6-2 win over Raffaella Reggi and Miss Navratilova, using a rather eclectic breed of racket, beat Claudia Kohde-Kilsch 6-1, 6-2. In each case the winners seemed merely to be checking their gear before heading for the mountains.

Miss Reggi is lively com-

pany. She has a warm voice, an equally warm heart, and wades into her matches as boisterously as Judy Tegart used to in the 1960s. If Miss Tegart was before your time, imagine the way Nora Barry might have played tennis before tasting "The Last of the Summer Wine".

Miss Reggi is strong and tough and has a no-nonsense approach to everything she does. She plays with her shirt out and holds the racket as if it

were a hammer. If you want to be technical, she uses the unorthodox "western" grip.

Quivering with energy, Miss Reggi chases everything and hits the ball as hard as she can. She has tendonitis in her elbow. No wonder. But she could not hurt Miss Evert. Nor could she out-rally her. Miss Evert was technically sounder and tactically wiser.

Miss Navratilova had more restful company. Miss Kohde-Kilsch is more than six feet tall and — like many unusually tall young women who have yet to realize how elegant they can be — tends to be difficult. For all her seeming languor, the leaping tower of Saarbrücken can be impressively competent, both on the baseline and in the

forecourt. Yesterday she was inhibited by the occasion and the opposition.

Miss Navratilova has played five singles finals here, won two of them, and on this rather sketchy evidence looks as much at home on clay as she ever has been and, probably, ever will be.

Ivan Lendl, who has played the last three finals here and won two of them, beat Andres Gomez 5-7, 6-4, 6-1, 6-1. The odd thing was that, as in their three previous matches here, they split the first two sets.

Lendl does not mind that: "It's always the same. I have to split sets, hang in there, and make him work for every point. The chances are that, unless it rains, he will be the one to tire. I'm in better shape than he is." That is demonstrably true. Lendl can play more shots in one rally than he plays in an entire round of golf.

They played for three hours on a hot afternoon and it became evident that, within Gomez, hope was struggling with despair — and losing. The rain came too late to save him. At the end of the day, the men's singles had been reduced to Lendl v Novacek or Mecir (two Czechs and a Slovak) and Noah or Wilander v Connors or Becker. The line-up could not be much more exciting.

Connors finds a solid racket deal at last

From Richard Evans, Paris

Whenever Jimmy Connors is playing well, he is, to use his own favourite phrase, hitting the ball "firm and solid". How Connors ever hit the ball either firm or solid with the metal-framed racket he used throughout his title-winning years remains one of the game's greater mysteries.

But, having been forced to give it up, because Wilson Sporting Goods could no longer find buyers, the former Wimbledon champion has at last settled on a substitute.

And, like John McEnroe, Connors has gone British: it was with a certain understandable satisfaction that John Barrett, the Slazenger promotions director, announced yesterday, that after nine months experimentation with a prototype, Connors had signed a long-term contract to use the gleaming, white Slazenger Pro-Ceramic — a model that combines graphite fibres with silicon carbide.

In the meantime, Connors will be giving his new racket a good test here in the quarter-finals of the French Open when he takes on Boris Becker. As 15 years and a fair amount of poundage separate the two, Connors will need to hit the ball very firm and solid indeed.

Sticking with grass

By Ian Ross

The presence of three players for vital practice on grass as for a shot at the winner's £3,000 prize, the organizers have refused to move to an indoor complex.

With only four days left, it means that the top men players will be forced to play two matches on one day later in the week in a bid to guarantee that the tournament reaches its scheduled climax on Saturday.

Top women's seed Beverly Bowes, of the United States, will face stiff competition from fellow American Elise Burgin and Anne Minter, of Australia.

Barrett, the former British Davis Cup captain, almost landed McEnroe for Slazenger five years ago, but having put in the ground work, was forced to bow to corporate pressure and allow the in-house rival Dunlop to snatch the prize from his grasp.

At 34, Connors is unlikely to give the product the kind of live television exposure that is the customary incentive for contracts of this kind. But, according to Barrett, Connors is being signed with a view to a long-term working relationship that will include sponsored teams of Connors-inspired juniors.

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With only four days left, it means that the top men players will be forced to play two matches on one day later in the week in a bid to guarantee that the tournament reaches its scheduled climax on Saturday.

Top women's seed Beverly Bowes, of the United States, will face stiff competition from fellow American Elise Burgin and Anne Minter, of Australia.



Making himself at home: Entitled, the only horse stabled overnight on Monday at Epsom, gets the feel of the place on his early morning gallop (Photograph: Stephen Markeson)

Coventry to go up market

By Clive White

Coventry City have restructured their FA Cup winning partnership of George Curtis and John Sillett. Curtis, the managing director, will concentrate on the business side next season, leaving Sillett responsible for team affairs.

Sillett, who has been given a four-year contract, said that Coventry hoped to sign three new players and indicated that they were unlikely to be from the League's bargain basement.

A forward is obviously the priority and David Speedie, of Chelsea, is one possibility. "If we scored the goals we created we would have won the League as well as the FA Cup," Sillett said. He revealed that the squad was numerically so limited that had the FA Cup Final gone to a replay, two members of their victorious FA Youth Cup side would have been substitutes.

Leeds pay record price for Crooks

By Keith Macklin

Lee Crooks, the Hull and Great Britain forward, yesterday became the highest-priced Rugby League player in the world when he signed for Leeds at a fee of £172,500.

The fee eclipses the previous world record cash payment of £130,000 paid by Wigan for the Warrington and Great Britain scrum half, Andy Gregory, and also beat the estimated £150,000 transfer fee for Ellery Hanley, whose move from Bradford Northern to Wigan included two players as part of the deal.

Harry Jepson, the chairman of Leeds, said: "We have got the player who is probably the best forward in the world," and Maurice Bamford, the Leeds and former Great Britain coach, added: "He is certainly among the best three players in the world."

Crooks, aged 23, was a boy prodigy in Rugby League, and first played for Great Britain

when he was 18, and has captained the international side at every level from Colts to the full international side. His remarkable maturity was emphasised in 1985 when he landed a late touch-line goal kick to square the international series with New Zealand at Headingley.

A skilful ball handler and pack leader, Crooks can both score tries and kick goals, and is regarded as the total all-rounder.

This view is endorsed by Bamford who said: "At the age of 23 he still has many more years of forward play left in him, and his skills will bring out the best in the Leeds pack."

John Rawlings, the Hull chairman, said the club had not wished to sell Crooks, but had been forced to do so through "economic circumstances and the fact the bank are pressing us to clear our overdraft."

SPORT IN BRIEF

Challenge to Davis

Steve Davis will meet a top American pool player in a £50,000 snooker-pool challenge match next month to be televised by ESPN, the United States's leading sports channel, and Channel Four.

Steve Mizerak, whose pool world titles from 1982 to 1984 earned him a part in the film *The Color of Money*, will meet Davis at the Palace Hotel, St Moritz, from July 3 to 5 for sessions of snooker and two forms of pool — straight pool and nine-ball pool. Mizerak is considered favourite for the £15,625 overall first prize.

Switched on

New South Wales and Western Australia have scheduled two Sheffield Shield matches under floodlights next season — a landmark in world first-class cricket. The two States have hours of play planned from 2.30pm to 10pm and also plan to use an orange ball.

Forces joined

The British and Irish Basketball Federation have invited Dave Titmuss, of England, and Kevin Cadie, of Scotland, to be joint assistant coaches to Joe Whelton for the Great Britain men's team for the 1988 Olympic Games programme, starting with the European qualifying tournament in the Netherlands from June 27 to July 10.

Queen's rush

Ticket sales for the Stella Artois tennis tournament at Queen's Club, starting on Monday, have reached a record £250,630, with centre court seats already sold out from Wednesday until Sunday's final. The draw includes Boris Becker, the Wimbledon champion, Stefan Edberg, Mats Wilander, Yannick Noah, Jimmy Connors, Pat Cash and Tim Mayotte, the defending champion.

Plastic plea

Plastic pitches are vital to the survival of Football League clubs as community assets, according to the Association of Metropolitan Authorities which has written to the League and the FA to withdraw their three-year ban on these surfaces.

In deep end

Terry Ramsden is expected to stage his first boxing promotion with the British super featherweight title bout between Najib Daho and Pat Cowdell at the Aston Villa leisure centre next month.

Wild cards

Annabel Croft, the British No 3, and Julie Salmon, the No 5, have been awarded wild cards into the £100,000 pre-Wimbledon Dow Chemicals Classic, starting at Edgbaston Priory, on Monday.

Hateley chase

Genoa, the Italian second division leaders, have made bids for Mark Hateley and Ray Wilkins, the England internationals released by AC Milan.

END COLUMN

Contest worthy of every support

By Jimmy Tarbuck

I helped organize the Four Stars pro-am celebrity tournament at Moor Park last weekend. It is the only tournament in which amateurs can play with professionals on the same tees and under PGA rules, and the only one on the European tour which benefits charity.

There was prize-money of £50,000, Ryder Cup points at stake, and over the four days raised £81,000 for charity, with the full backing of the professionals and of the media. It could and should have been a lot more.

The attitude of 99 per cent of the players is marvellous, but need the other one per cent, the top names, the Listerstons, the Langers and the Normans. Several Ryder Cup players were, I know, playing the Ryder Cup course in the Memorial Tournament in America — and quite rightly so — but there were some others who chose not to play, and that upsets me.

I wonder if some of our big names are not getting a bit spoilt. If the prize money has not become so high that they are forgetting to give to the game as well as to take from it.

There can only possibly be one winner if they all come — and that is charity. It is not even a question of their playing for nothing, which all the celebrities do, anyway. The first prize was worth £21,000 and if that is not good enough for a week's work, then they have got some hard thinking to do.

The professionals should always remember, too, that their livelihood comes from the amateur, the person who, buys the clubs, pays the fees, comes to watch and keeps the game going. Without them, he is nothing.

The old professionals were brought up to realize that but I am not sure some of their successors have learnt the same lesson yet. Here is a week, one out of 52, when they can give the amateur a thrill of a lifetime and at the same time provide money for a number of worthy charities. They should take that opportunity.

The celebrities took the trouble to come — for nothing. Sean Connery put back his filming schedules to play. Terry Wogan altered his schedule and was not well either, but he still turned up. If they can do that, I see no reason why the professionals can't as well.

But I'm not just aiming my comments at the golfers. Support from the media was very



Tarbuck: organizer's plea half-hearted. The BBC gave two full days coverage to the Walker Cup which was dead after the first day, and some of the golf correspondents did not turn up as well. It was their loss. They missed the best finish of the year, Mark McNulty holding a 40-foot putt in a play-off to win the tournament. It was pure theatre.

I know that the crowds who come to pro-ams are different from those at the usual tournaments. You might get a camera clicking or a child crying at the wrong moment, but they have come to watch the stars they see on television, in the cinema or on the football field, and it is their money going to charity, too. So a little tolerance is not too much to ask, is it?

The Four Stars tournament has been going for three years now and we have just gained a £1 million sponsorship from the Wang computer company, half of which will go straight to charity. We could raise at least £250,000 every year for charity from this unique event, but we need the total support of the players, the press and television.

I consider golf as the last game of honour. Let's keep it that way.

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